



**Employment and wage profile
of the Louisiana and Texas
counties affected by
Hurricane Ike**

Bureau of Labor Statistics
September 26, 2008

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On Saturday, September 13, 2008, Hurricane Ike swept across much of the east coast of Texas and portions of coastal Louisiana. The Category 2 hurricane made landfall over Galveston around 2 a.m., affecting dozens of counties¹ in the region. On that day, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued disaster declarations for 29 counties in Texas and 14 parishes in Louisiana due to the storm's widespread devastation. (See maps 1–3.)²

This powerful storm hit several large economic centers in the region, and of the 29 Texas counties affected, 6 had annual average employment of 75,000 or more in 2007. Two of the 14 affected Louisiana parishes had annual average employment of 75,000 or more in 2007. These 8 large counties and parishes represent 19 percent (or nearly one-fifth) of the 43 Louisiana and Texas counties declared as disaster areas by FEMA due to the hurricane, and the 2,846,700 employees in these 8 counties represent 85 percent of the 3,352,000 workers affected in all 43 counties hit by the storm. The 8 large counties stricken are as follows:

County/State	2007 Annual average employment
Harris, Texas	2,011,100
Jefferson, Louisiana	198,000
Jefferson, Texas	124,200
Fort Bend, Texas	123,900
Montgomery, Texas	120,700
Galveston, Texas	96,200
Calcasieu, Louisiana	86,700
Brazoria, Texas	85,900

Data availability

The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program publishes county-level industry data on establishments, employment, and wages based on a virtual census encompassing 96.4 percent of civilian wage and salary employment in the United States. Although the hurricane's economic impact on QCEW data will likely not be observable until data for the fourth quarter of 2008 are published in July 2009,³ it is important to note that the affected areas contribute significantly to the economic activity of each of the two States and the region as a whole.

Texas

In 2007, Texas had the Nation's second-largest employment base of all States and the fourth-largest establishment count. In addition, Harris County, the largest county in the State by employment, was the fourth largest county in the Nation by number of workers. Approximately 1 in every 13 jobs in the United States was located in Texas in 2007. In that year, the number of business establishments grew by 5.1 percent over the year, more than double the national average growth of 2.1 percent. During this time span, employment in Texas grew by 3.2 percent over the year—nearly triple the 1.1-percent growth rate for the Nation. Over-the-year employment growth in the State of Louisiana represents, to a great extent, continued recovery from the effects of Hurricane Katrina, which occurred in 2005.

Business establishments

As of 2007, more than a quarter (26.2 percent) of the business establishments in Texas and Louisiana were located in the 43 FEMA-designated disaster counties. (See table 1.) The 179,600 worksites operating in these counties represented 2 percent of the national total. More than half of these establishments were located in Harris County, which had 97,500 worksites, whereas Jefferson Parish had the second largest number of establishments, with 13,800. Fort Bend County was third, with 8,100 worksites. The business establishments in these 3 counties represented 1.3 percent of all establishments in the country and accounted for 66.5 percent of the establishments in all affected counties.

Employment

Employment in these 43 counties in 2007 totaled 3.4 million workers, representing both 27.7 percent of the States' total employment and 2.5 percent of national employment. The 2 million workers employed in Harris County alone accounted for 60 percent of the employment in the affected counties.

Wages

The \$166 billion in wages disbursed in 2007 within the counties declared by FEMA to be disaster areas accounted for 31.4 percent of the 2 States' total annual wages and 2.8 percent of all wages paid in the United States. Harris County workers received 68 percent of these wages, and nearly a quarter of all wages disbursed in Texas. The average annual pay for the 43 affected counties was \$49,517, which is substantially above the statewide average annual pay of both Texas and Louisiana, where workers earned \$44,670 and \$38,243, respectively, in 2007. The 49,517 figure is also above the national average annual pay of \$44,450. Among the 43 counties, Harris County had the highest average annual pay, \$56,127; Trinity County had the lowest, \$23,389.

Industry

Establishments. At the industry level within the private sector, the trade, transportation, and utilities supersector had the largest number of business establishments in the 43 FEMA-designated counties in 2007, with 42,200 worksites. These establishments represented 23.5 percent of all 179,600 establishments in the affected area, 6.2 percent of all 685,000 worksites in Louisiana and Texas, and 0.5 percent of all 8,971,100 worksites in the United States, meaning about 1 of every 200 establishments in the United States in 2007 was in the trade, transportation, and utilities industry within the affected area. The second-largest number of worksites within all affected counties occurred in the professional and business services supersector, which had 32,000 establishments in operation in 2007.

Employment. The trade, transportation, and utilities supersector also led the area in private- industry employment, with 701,400 jobs, accounting for 20.9 percent of overall employment in the affected area, 5.8 percent of the total employment base of both Louisiana and Texas, and 0.5 percent of national total employment. The second-largest employment total in the area was in the professional and business services supersector, which employed 460,600 workers, accounting for 13.7 percent of all jobs in the affected area, 3.8 percent of the total employment for Louisiana and Texas, and 0.3 percent of all employment in the Nation. Education and health services had the third-largest employment count of all supersectors in the affected area, with 348,800 workers, making up 10.4 percent of all employment in the 43 counties, 2.9 percent of the total employment of the two States, and 0.3 percent of national employment. Manufacturing and leisure and hospitality rounded out the top five supersectors in employment levels in the affected area, in 2007, with 331,000 and 309,300 jobs respectively. Approximately 1.6 percent of national employment resided in these top 5 supersectors in the 43 affected counties in 2007, or roughly 1 in every 63 jobs in the country.

Wages. Within the private sector in the 43 affected counties, the trade, transportation, and utilities supersector had the largest total wage payments in 2007: \$31.1 billion, representing 5.9 percent of the total wages paid in Louisiana and Texas and 0.5 percent of national wages. The professional and business services supersector followed closely with \$26.9 billion in wages disbursed, which represented 5.1 percent of the 2 States' total wages and 0.4 percent of total wages in the Nation. Wages in the manufacturing supersector in these 43 counties, which stood at \$22.1 billion in 2007, accounted for 4.2 percent of the 2 State's wages and 0.4 percent of national total wages. The \$80 billion in wages paid in these 3 supersectors accounted for 48.2 percent of the \$166 billion paid in all 43 affected counties in 2007 and 1.3 percent of all national total wages. The natural resources and mining supersector had the highest average annual pay by far in the affected area, with the industry's 116,600 workers earning an average of \$124,642 in wages in 2007. This was 2.8 times the national average annual pay of \$44,450 and was also 3.3 times the figure for Louisiana, 2.8 times the figure for Texas, and 2.5 times the figure for the total affected area. The next-highest average annual pay, \$66,643, occurred

in manufacturing. The “other services” supersector had the lowest average annual pay, \$30,247.

Government

The Federal, State, and local governments in the 43 affected counties employed 495,400 workers in 4,300 worksites. These figures represented respectively 4.1 percent of all of workers in Louisiana and Texas and 0.6 percent of all establishments in those 2 States. The average annual pay that these government workers received was \$41,640 in 2007, with the disbursement of \$20.6 billion in total wages. The wages represented 12.4 percent of all wages paid in the affected areas, 3.9 percent of the total wages paid in Louisiana and Texas, and 0.3 percent of all national wages in 2007.

Additional information

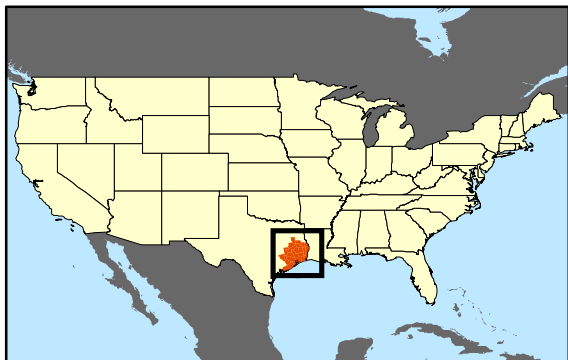
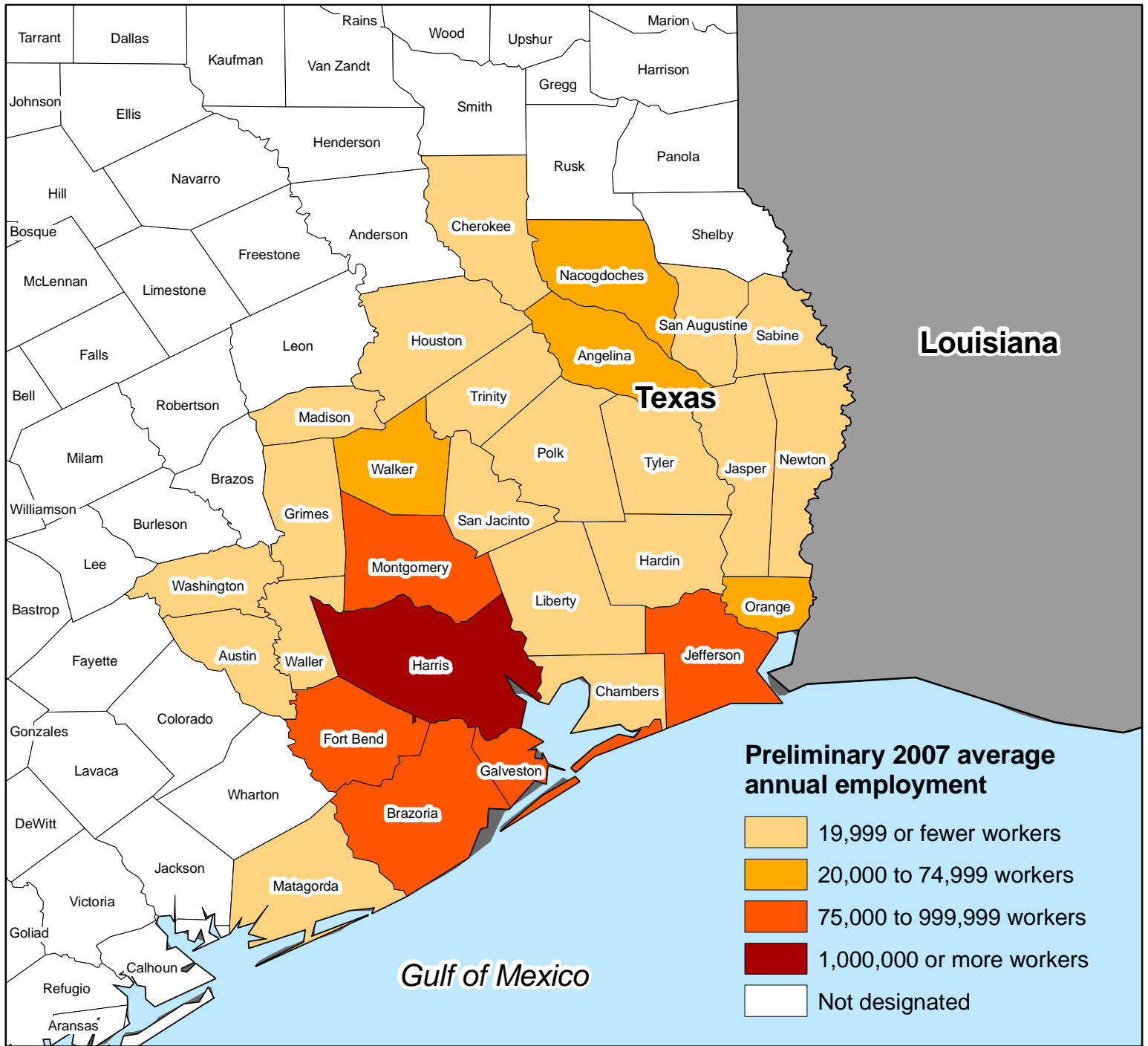
The preceding data were obtained by the QCEW program in the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Data presented here are for all workers covered by State and Federal Unemployment Insurance programs. Preliminary annual average data for 2007 were used in this report and may slightly differ from final 2007 data, which will be made available later in October. For access to QCEW data, visit the QCEW home page at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/home.htm>. For additional information regarding the QCEW data presented in this report, contact Mike McCall, an economist in the Division of Administrative Statistics and Labor Turnover, Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics. E-mail: mccall.michael@bls.gov. Telephone: (202) 691-6794.

Information in this summary will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200. Federal Relay Service: 1 (800) 877-8339. This report is in the public domain and may be reproduced without permission.

Notes

- ¹ Parishes within the State of Louisiana are the equivalent of counties in other States, including Texas. For the purposes of this article, including its tables, references to “the affected counties” or “43 counties” includes the 29 Texas counties and the 14 Louisiana parishes declared by FEMA to be disaster areas.
- ² Designated Counties for Louisiana Hurricane Ike (Federal Emergency Management Agency), see <http://www.fema.gov/news/eventcounties.fema?id=10571>; Designated Counties for Texas Hurricane Ike (Federal Emergency Management Agency), see <http://www.fema.gov/news/eventcounties.fema?id=10570>.
- ³ QCEW reported employment is based on the count of workers on establishments’ payroll as of the 12th of the month. Because the hurricane made landfall on September 13, it is not expected that the storm’s impact will be apparent in QCEW data until October, which is the first month of the fourth quarter.

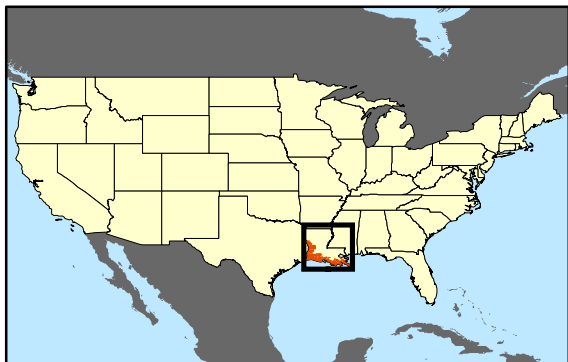
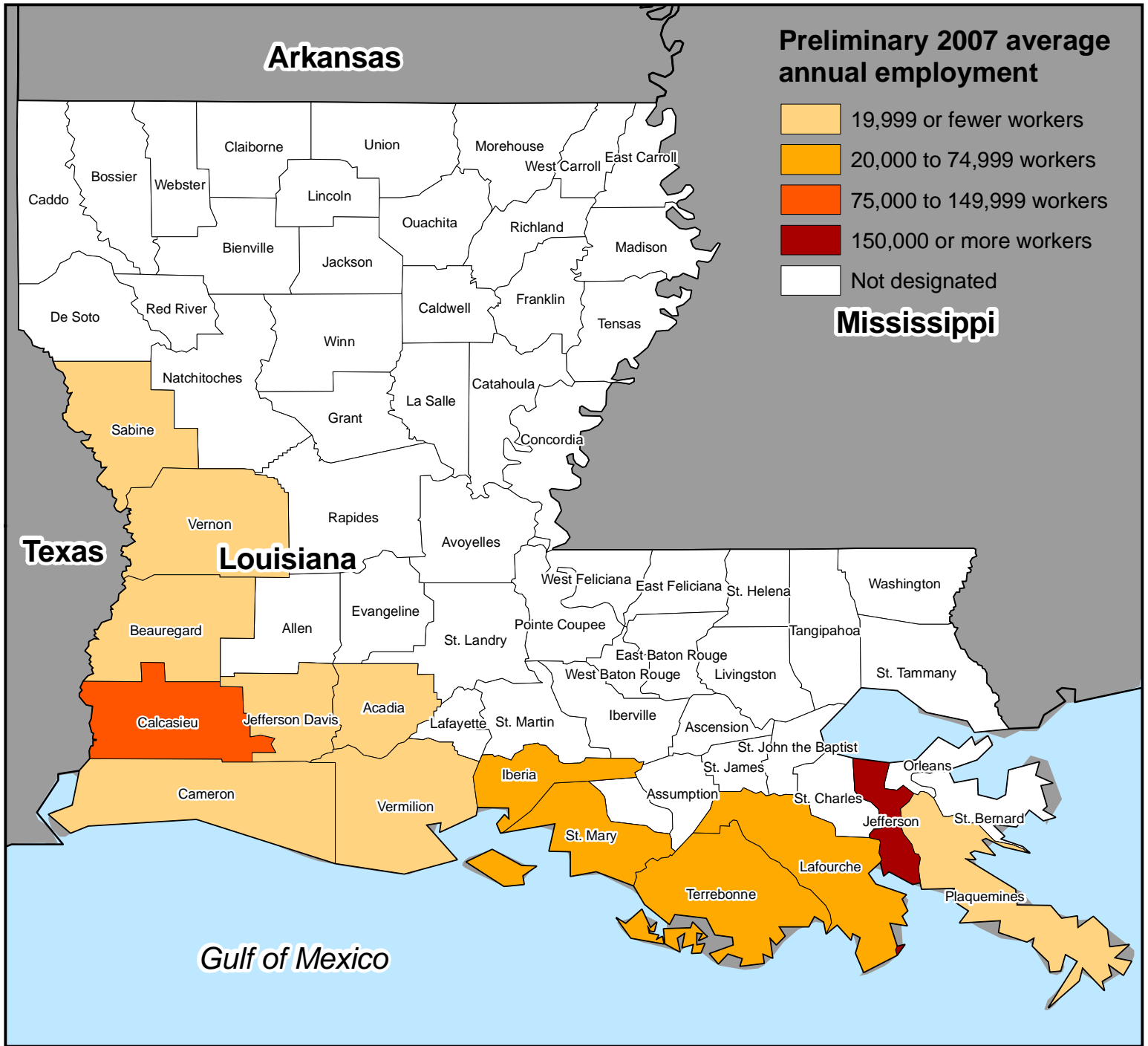
Map 1. Preliminary 2007 average annual employment levels in Texas counties that were declared by FEMA as disaster areas after Hurricane Ike



Source: Disaster Summary For FEMA-1791-DR, Texas. September 13, 2008.



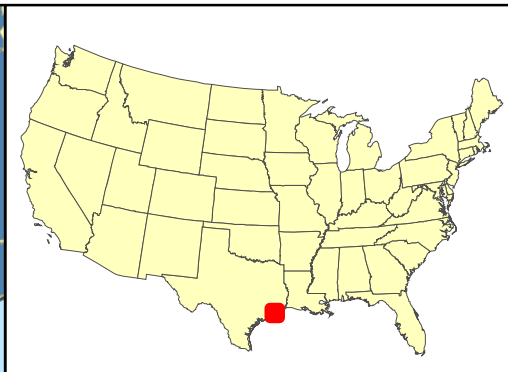
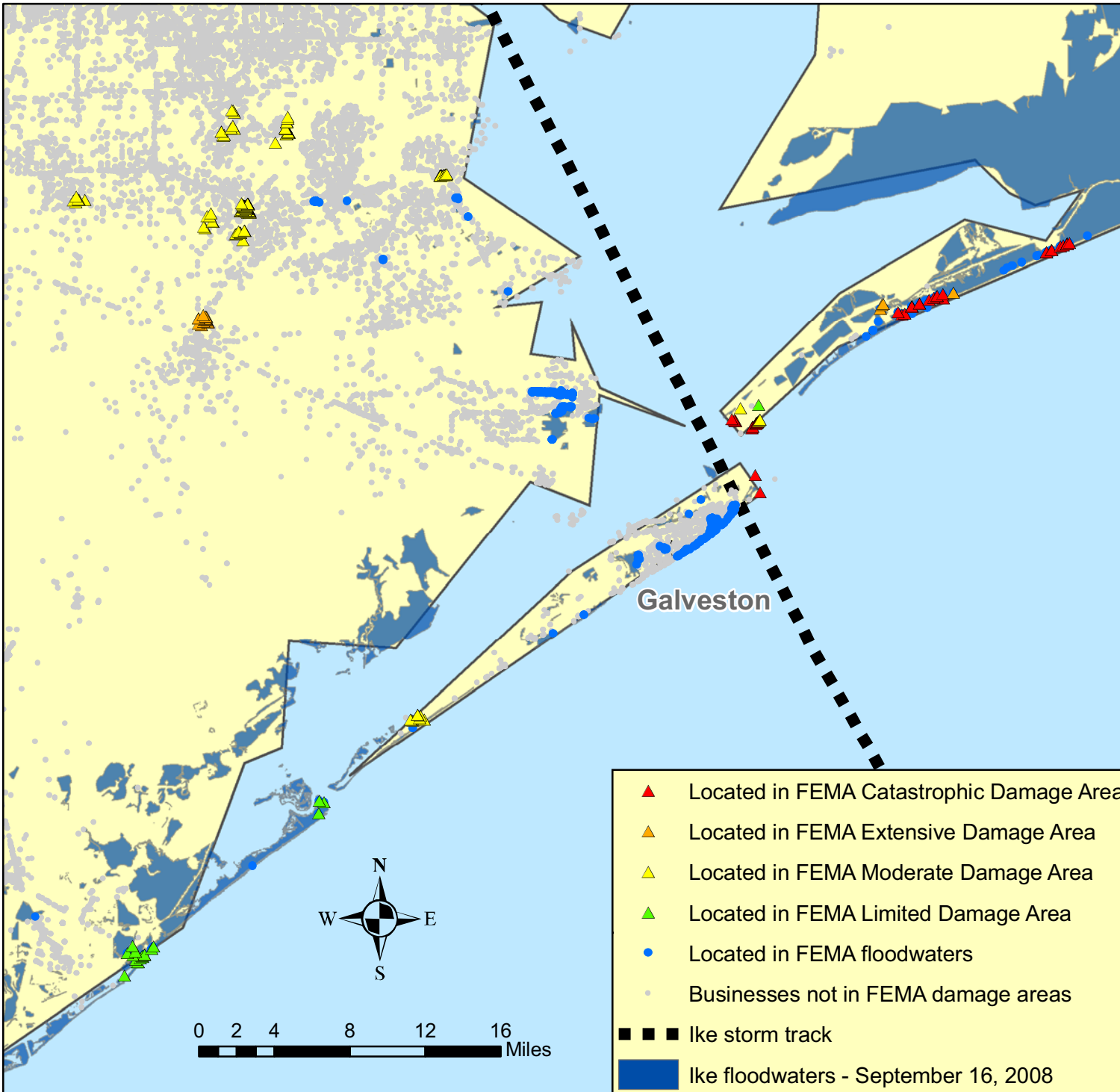
Map 2. Preliminary 2007 average annual employment levels in Louisiana parishes that were declared by FEMA as disaster areas after Hurricane Ike



Source: Disaster Summary For FEMA-1792-DR, Louisiana. September 13, 2008.



Map 3. Hurricane Ike: business establishments in damage areas in Texas as identified by FEMA



Texas

Number of businesses in catastrophic areas - 46, approx. employment: 500
 Number of businesses in extensive areas - 21, approx. employment: 300
 Number of businesses in moderate areas - 222, approx. employment: 2000
 Number of businesses in limited areas - 19, approx. employment: 80

Number of businesses in flood area 571
 Flooded businesses employment approx. 11,400

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), developed through a cooperative program between the State of Texas and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. QCEW data are from 2008, 1st Quarter, and do not include businesses for which accurate address information was not available.
 Note: Storm track, floodwaters, and damage levels downloaded from FEMA on September 17, 2008.

- ▲ Located in FEMA Catastrophic Damage Area
- ▲ Located in FEMA Extensive Damage Area
- ▲ Located in FEMA Moderate Damage Area
- ▲ Located in FEMA Limited Damage Area
- Located in FEMA floodwaters
- Businesses not in FEMA damage areas
- ■ ■ Ike storm track
- Ike floodwaters - September 16, 2008



Table 1. Establishments, employment, and wages for FEMA-designated Louisiana and Texas counties for Hurricane Ike, 2007 annual averages

Area/industry ¹	Establishments			Employment			Wages			
	Annual average establishments	Percentage of State(s)	Percentage of U.S. total	Annual average employment	Percentage of State(s)	Percentage of U.S. total	Total wages (in millions)	Percentage of State(s)	Percentage of U.S. total	Average annual pay
United States	8,971,090	—	—	135,371,408	—	—	\$6,017,254	—	—	\$44,450
Louisiana (Statewide)	120,313	—	1.3	1,868,208	—	1.4	71,446	—	1.2	38,243
Acadia	1,207	1.0	0.0	15,655	0.8	0.0	478	0.7	0.0	30,519
Beauregard	671	0.6	0.0	8,473	0.5	0.0	281	0.4	0.0	33,124
Calcasieu	4,784	4.0	0.1	86,659	4.6	0.1	3,221	4.5	0.1	37,174
Cameron	212	0.2	0.0	2,880	0.2	0.0	132	0.2	0.0	45,668
Iberia	1,925	1.6	0.0	34,549	1.8	0.0	1,417	2.0	0.0	41,009
Jefferson	13,756	11.4	0.2	198,041	10.6	0.1	8,044	11.3	0.1	40,618
Jefferson Davis	721	0.6	0.0	8,712	0.5	0.0	247	0.3	0.0	28,397
Lafourche	2,074	1.7	0.0	36,934	2.0	0.0	1,591	2.2	0.0	43,077
Plaquemines	803	0.7	0.0	14,479	0.8	0.0	745	1.0	0.0	51,421
Sabine	513	0.4	0.0	5,545	0.3	0.0	148	0.2	0.0	26,733
St. Mary	1,593	1.3	0.0	27,786	1.5	0.0	1,179	1.7	0.0	42,446
Terrebonne	3,167	2.6	0.0	57,706	3.1	0.0	2,344	3.3	0.0	40,617
Vermilion	1,203	1.0	0.0	13,721	0.7	0.0	489	0.7	0.0	35,643
Vernon	858	0.7	0.0	15,053	0.8	0.0	450	0.6	0.0	29,879
Total affected Louisiana area	33,487	27.8	0.4	526,193	28.2	0.4	20,766	29.1	0.3	39,464
Texas (Statewide)	564,729	—	6.3	10,236,470	—	7.6	457,265	—	7.6	44,670
Angelina	1,890	0.3	0.0	37,408	0.4	0.0	1,230	0.3	0.0	32,883
Austin	850	0.2	0.0	11,682	0.1	0.0	467	0.1	0.0	39,971
Brazoria	4,646	0.8	0.1	85,940	0.8	0.1	3,656	0.8	0.1	42,536
Chambers	583	0.1	0.0	9,403	0.1	0.0	423	0.1	0.0	45,023
Cherokee	896	0.2	0.0	15,462	0.2	0.0	430	0.1	0.0	27,809
Fort Bend	8,127	1.4	0.1	123,867	1.2	0.1	5,832	1.3	0.1	47,085
Galveston	5,328	0.9	0.1	96,191	0.9	0.1	3,961	0.9	0.1	41,180
Grimes	447	0.1	0.0	6,727	0.1	0.0	248	0.1	0.0	36,938
Hardin	804	0.1	0.0	12,665	0.1	0.0	407	0.1	0.0	32,133
Harris	97,533	17.3	1.1	2,011,126	19.6	1.5	112,878	24.7	1.9	56,127
Houston	602	0.1	0.0	6,237	0.1	0.0	218	0.0	0.0	35,005
Jasper	728	0.1	0.0	11,091	0.1	0.0	360	0.1	0.0	32,446
Jefferson	5,981	1.1	0.1	124,171	1.2	0.1	5,202	1.1	0.1	41,897
Liberty	1,118	0.2	0.0	17,442	0.2	0.0	559	0.1	0.0	32,061
Madison	258	0.0	0.0	3,978	0.0	0.0	124	0.0	0.0	31,140
Matagorda	869	0.2	0.0	10,833	0.1	0.0	408	0.1	0.0	37,622
Montgomery	7,995	1.4	0.1	120,698	1.2	0.1	4,875	1.1	0.1	40,387
Nacogdoches	1,316	0.2	0.0	22,730	0.2	0.0	671	0.1	0.0	29,515
Newton	158	0.0	0.0	1,985	0.0	0.0	57	0.0	0.0	28,929
Orange	1,435	0.3	0.0	23,112	0.2	0.0	884	0.2	0.0	38,234
Polk	726	0.1	0.0	10,216	0.1	0.0	309	0.1	0.0	30,215
Sabine	183	0.0	0.0	2,219	0.0	0.0	99	0.0	0.0	44,688
San Augustine	150	0.0	0.0	1,674	0.0	0.0	44	0.0	0.0	26,291
San Jacinto	221	0.0	0.0	2,130	0.0	0.0	57	0.0	0.0	26,770
Trinity	240	0.0	0.0	2,488	0.0	0.0	58	0.0	0.0	23,389
Tyler	324	0.1	0.0	4,026	0.0	0.0	109	0.0	0.0	27,105
Walker	1,106	0.2	0.0	22,827	0.2	0.0	702	0.2	0.0	30,771
Waller	721	0.1	0.0	13,263	0.1	0.0	506	0.1	0.0	38,158
Washington	895	0.2	0.0	14,261	0.1	0.0	444	0.1	0.0	31,113
Total affected Texas area	146,130	25.9	1.6	2,825,852	27.6	2.1	145,218	31.8	2.4	51,389
Total affected area	179,617	26.2	2.0	3,352,045	27.7	2.5	165,984	31.4	2.8	49,517
Private Sector	175,351	25.6	2.0	2,856,597	23.6	2.1	145,354	27.5	2.4	50,884
Natural resources and mining	3,884	0.6	0.0	116,561	1.0	0.1	14,528	2.7	0.2	124,642
Construction	14,450	2.1	0.2	261,744	2.2	0.2	13,709	2.6	0.2	52,375
Manufacturing	8,371	1.2	0.1	331,016	2.7	0.2	22,060	4.2	0.4	66,643
Trade, transportation, and utilities	42,184	6.2	0.5	701,381	5.8	0.5	31,057	5.9	0.5	44,280
Information	2,437	0.4	0.0	46,255	0.4	0.0	2,860	0.5	0.0	61,834
Financial activities	19,463	2.8	0.2	182,688	1.5	0.1	11,648	2.2	0.2	63,759
Professional and business services	31,988	4.7	0.4	460,566	3.8	0.3	26,940	5.1	0.4	58,493
Education and health services	18,591	2.7	0.2	348,834	2.9	0.3	13,951	2.6	0.2	39,994
Leisure and hospitality	14,298	2.1	0.2	309,296	2.6	0.2	5,584	1.1	0.1	18,055
Other services	18,146	2.6	0.2	94,412	0.8	0.1	2,856	0.5	0.0	30,247
Unclassified	1,599	0.2	0.0	2,868	0.0	0.0	98	0.0	0.0	34,266
Government	4,269	0.6	0.0	495,449	4.1	0.4	20,631	3.9	0.3	41,640

¹ Due to data suppressions, sums of the individual supersector data may not equal the private sector total provided in this table. For the same reason, sums of private sector and government may not equal the total affected area figures provided in this table.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.