

Katrina by the Numbers

by Aaron Hoover

Total number of single-family homes, mobile homes, and apartments destroyed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: **355,889**
American Red Cross, Katrina and Rita Disaster Assessment (10/30/05)

Total number of damaged dwelling units: **538,007**
American Red Cross, Katrina and Rita Disaster Assessment (10/30/05)

Number of occupied emergency trailers and mobile homes as of early December: **38,440**
The New York Times, Op-Chart, "Rebuilding Progress" (12/7/05)

Number of evacuated families in hotels: **41,953**
The New York Times, Op-Chart, "Rebuilding Progress" (12/7/05)

Number of temporary "blue roofs" installed on damaged homes by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Louisiana as of mid-November: **70,000**
New Orleans CityBusiness, "Blue Roof Program Coming to a Close in 34 Louisiana Parishes" (11/14/05)

Cost per average 1,500-square-foot roof: **\$2,500**
JLC, "Top-Dollar Tarps" (12/05)

Estimated tons of debris in Southeast Louisiana following Katrina: **22 million**
The Times-Picayune, "Three Decades Worth of Trash" (11/16/05)

Estimated tons in New Orleans alone: **12 million**
The Times-Picayune, "Three Decades Worth of Trash" (11/16/05)

Tons of garbage generated in New Orleans in an average year: **350,000**
The Times-Picayune, "Three Decades Worth of Trash" (11/16/05)

Total number of ruined refrigerators processed for recycling in New Orleans as of mid-November: **131,925**
The Times-Picayune, "Ruined Refrigerators Have Become a Familiar, Even Evocative Sight" (11/27/05)

Estimated number of vehicles damaged by Katrina floodwaters: **350,000**
The Times-Picayune, "Three Decades Worth of Trash" (11/16/05)

Number of open public schools in New Orleans before Katrina: **116**
The New York Times, Op-Chart, "Rebuilding Progress" (12/7/05)

Number of open public schools after Katrina as of early December: **1**
The New York Times, Op-Chart, "Rebuilding Progress" (12/7/05)

Number of construction jobs lost in Louisiana and Mississippi from August through September: **27,000**
Houston Chronicle, "Five Questions with Ken Simonson" (11/16/05)

Unemployment rate in New Orleans before Katrina: **5.8%**
The New York Times, Op-Chart, "Rebuilding Progress" (12/7/05)

Unemployment rate after Katrina: **15.5%**
The New York Times, Op-Chart, "Rebuilding Progress" (12/7/05)

Number of mold spores per cubic meter measured in some flooded New Orleans homes: **3 million**
The Times-Picayune, "The Same Old Same Mold" (10/29/05)

"Very high" levels of outdoor mold spores per cubic meter as defined by the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology: **50,000** <http://www.aaaai.org>

Amount charged by professional mold remediators: **\$10 to \$12 per square foot**
The Times-Picayune, "The Same Old Same Mold" (10/29/05)

Number of days it took for the National Flood Insurance Program to empty its coffers following Hurricane Wilma's U.S. landfall on October 24: **18** *The Times-Picayune*, "Congress OKs Adding Flood-Insurance Dollars" (11/19/05)

Total number of flood claims filed following the three hurricanes as of mid-November: **230,000** *The Times-Picayune*, "Congress OKs Adding Flood-Insurance Dollars" (11/19/05)

Percentage increase in price of diesel fuel October 2004 to October 2005: **59** *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, "Contractors Brace for Higher Prices" (11/29/05)

Post-Katrina and -Rita percentage increases in the price of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe depending on geographic region: **20 to 100**
St. Petersburg Times, "Builders Declare Hardship" (11/26/05)

Increase in the price for a square (10 feet by 10 feet) of architectural shingles in Louisiana after Katrina: **\$10**
The Times-Picayune, "No Quick Fixes" (11/19/05)

Rise in Entergy Corp.'s third-quarter earnings despite extensive damage to its New Orleans unit from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: **24%** *Associated Press*, "Entergy Profits Rise Despite Hurricane Damage" (11/1/05)

Rise in Harrah's Entertainment Inc.'s third-quarter profits despite destruction of its casinos in Biloxi and Gulfport and serious damage to its Lake Charles casino: **42%**
Associated Press, "Harrah's Posts Profit Rise with Caesars Buy, Despite Hurricanes" (11/3/05)

Total Louisiana state budget deficit following Katrina: **\$959 million** *Associated Press*, "Notes from the Louisiana Legislature's Special Session" (11/9/05)

Total estimated cost of a major hurricane hitting Miami in 2020 if current construction and property value trends continue: **\$500 billion** *The New York Times*, "In Study, a History Lesson on the Costs of Hurricanes" (12/8/05)