

Hurricane Ike Impact Report: Galveston County



Texas Engineering Extension
Service

Knowledge Engineering

800-541-7149

KE@teexmail.tamu.edu

Federal Funding

\$190,286,557 in Individual Assistance grants

\$141,341,638 in Housing Assistance grants

\$48,944,918 in Other Needs Assistance grants

\$362,003,736 in Public Assistance grants

\$242,058,800 in U.S. Small Business Administration loans

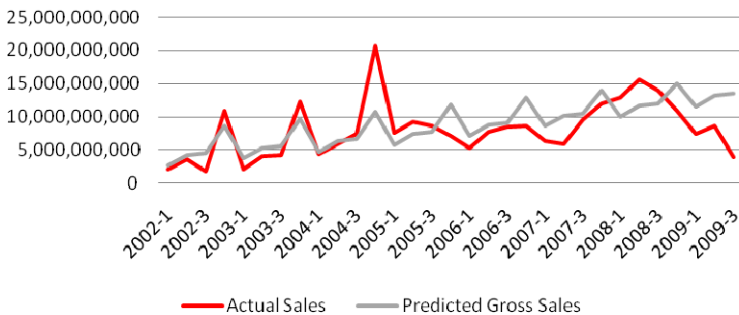
Hurricane Ike made landfall with Category 2 winds and Category 4 water surges. As the eye of the storm moved up Galveston Bay the Galveston Sea Wall held strong to the challenging waves. However, once the water levels receded, they flooded Galveston Island from the Bay causing catastrophic flooding to nearly 50% of Galveston Island. Galveston Island endured 12+ hours of salt water inundation from Ike’s 15 foot storm surge.

COUNTY IMPACTS

According to the Disaster Impact Model, developed by Texas A&M AgriLife, the estimated economic impact to Galveston County for the 12 month period following Ike was **\$22.16 billion**. Among the 29 industry sectors evaluated in Galveston County, Manufacturing suffered the greatest loss at \$19.5 billion.

Estimates by Houston-Galveston Area COG found that more than 53,000 employees were put out of work; more than 3,800 businesses were interrupted; and more than 18,000 businesses were damaged in Galveston County. These estimates do not include information from some severely impacted areas, such as Galveston Island. (Hurricane Ike Impact Report, TDEM)

Galveston County Economy-wide Ike Impact



The above graph illustrates post Hurricane Ike (2008 4Q – 2009 3Q) Galveston County experienced on average a 42% per quarter reduction in gross sales during the four quarters Ike. Totalling an estimated 22.16 billion loss to Galveston County

Texas A&M University – Galveston experienced \$28.6 million in damages which caused them to relocate 1,500 faculty and staff and approximately 1,800 students to the main Texas A&M campus in College Station, TX for the remainder of the 2008 fall semester.

After Ike, debris was a major problem. The cost of debris removal for Galveston Island alone was \$7,790,002 and the remainder of the county cost \$2,059,541.