

Hurricane Ike Impact Report: Brazoria County



Texas Engineering Extension
Service

Knowledge Engineering

800-541-7149

KE@teexmail.tamu.edu

HURRICANE IKE IMPACT REPORT

BRAZORIA COUNTY SUMMARY

Economic Impact

Overall Economic Impact to Brazoria County is estimated to be \$1.8 billion.

\$1.3 billion in estimated losses to the industrial sectors

\$483 million in estimated losses to the services sectors

\$729 thousand in estimated losses to the agricultural sectors

The total economic impact (loss) to Brazoria County from Hurricane Ike is estimated to be \$1.8 billion. Numbers are based on the, Disaster Impact Model's, accumulation of loss in sales during the four quarters (2008 Q4 - 2009 Q3) following Hurricane Ike. Already considered the most costly storm to make landfall in Texas, Hurricane Ike's true economic impacts to the region continue to be analyzed. Brazoria County's manufacturing sector was impacted the hardest experiencing an estimated \$528.5 million in losses alone.

Impact Report

COUNTY INFORMATION

Brazoria County is a Texas coastal county located on the Gulf Coast of Mexico just southwest of Houston, TX. Brazoria County is home to 301,044 (2008) residents and several tourist escapes including Lake Jackson, Freeport and Surfside Beach. Its county seat is Angleton, and its largest city is Pearland.

Brazoria County, like nearby Brazos County, takes its name from the Brazos River. The county also includes what was once Velasco, Texas, which was the first capital of the Republic of Texas. It served as the first settlement area for Anglo-Texas, whereby the Old Three Hundred immigrated from the United States.



HURRICANE IKE

Brazoria County has endured numerous Hurricanes, including the storm of 1900 that destroyed Angleton's High School and the University of South Texas. However, the Hurricane of 1909 destroyed the rebuilt schools.

Hurricane Ike made landfall with **Category 2** winds and Category 4 water surges. As the eye of the storm moved over Galveston Island and up Galveston Bay, Brazoria County sustained nearly 8 hours of 75 to 110 mile per hour winds.

Federal Funding

\$16,727,424.99 in Individual Assistance grants

\$14,408,448.88 in Housing Assistance grants

\$2,318,976.11 in Other Needs Assistance grants

\$38,427,986.99 in Public Assistance grants

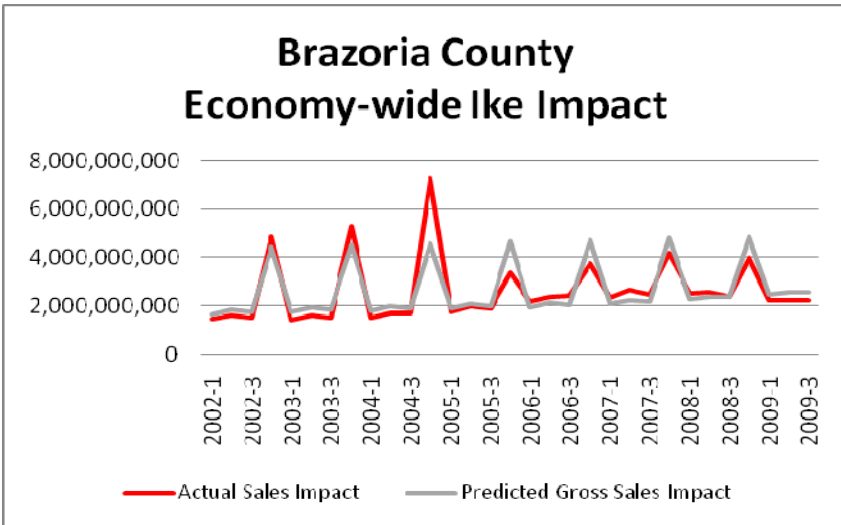
\$28,636,300.00 in U.S. Small Business Administration loans

COUNTY IMPACTS

According to the Disaster Impact Model, developed by Texas A&M AgriLife, the estimated economic impact to Brazoria County for the 12 month period following Ike was \$1.8 billion. Among the 29 industry sectors evaluated in Brazoria County, manufacturing suffered the greatest loss at \$528.5 million.

Brazoria County is home to the Blue Water Highway that connects San Luis Pass of Galveston Island with the western portion of Brazoria County at Freeport. The Blue Water Highway was deemed impassible following Ike after roughly 2.3 miles were totally destroyed and another 3.5 miles were seriously damaged.

In the City of Alvin, the Winchester Lodge Healthcare Center, a 94 bed facility, was closed indefinitely due to severe damages reducing Brazoria County’s nursing home capacity by 9.2%



Debris was a major problem following the storm; the cost of debris removal for Brazoria County was \$23,656,025.57 (FEMA.gov).

After Hurricane Ike (2008 4Q – 2009 3Q), Brazoria County experienced on average a 14% per quarter reduction in gross sales during the four quarters following the storm. Total losses to the county are estimated at \$1.8 billion.