

Hurricane Ike Impact Report: Tyler County



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HURRICANE IKE IMPACT REPORT

Economic Impact

Overall economic impact to Tyler County is estimated to be \$79.9 million.

\$28.5 million in estimated losses to the industrial sectors

\$51 million in estimated losses to the services sectors, \$50.4 million of which was due to losses in the real estate sector

TYLER COUNTY SUMMARY

The total economic impact (loss) to Tyler County from Hurricane Ike is estimated to be \$79.9 million. 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. Tyler County's real estate sector was impacted the hardest, experiencing an estimated \$50.4 million in losses alone.

Impact Report

COUNTY INFORMATION

Tyler County is located in the southeastern region of Texas close to the Louisiana border, and is bordered on the north and east by the Neches River. Woodville, TX, is the county seat and the largest town in the rural county. Tyler County is home to 20,470 residents, along with the Big Thicket National Preserve.

A mandatory evacuation was ordered for the residents of Tyler County on Sept. 11, 2008. Wind gust from 60 - 80 mph were recorded throughout the county during Hurricane Ike, causing property damages to Tyler County estimated at \$47 million.



Hurricane Ike

Tyler County experienced a variety of hurricanes over the three year span from 2005 to 2008, including Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike. Tyler County is a rural east Texas county that serves as an evacuation "pass through" county for residents living south of the county. Tyler County does not have the appropriate housing or shelters to accommodate their own residents, nor those of Hardin, Jefferson or Orange Counties in a storm event.

**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

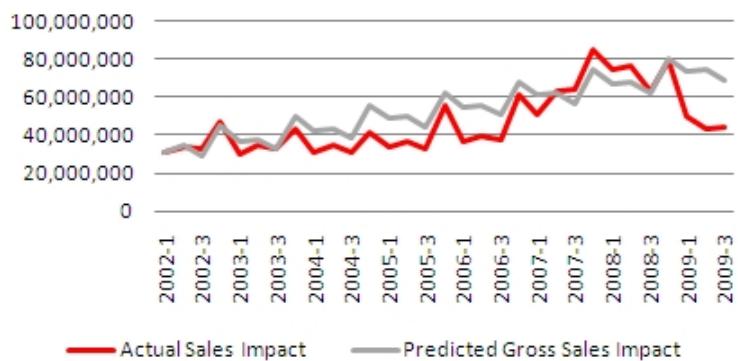
\$242,058,800 in U.S. Small Business Administration loans

Hurricane Ike made landfall with **Category 2** winds and **Category 4** water surges. Despite a mandatory evacuation by County Judge Blanchette, many residents of southeast Texas hesitated to leave as they had only returned home 10 days prior following Hurricane Gustav. The minimal damage caused by Gustav and high personal expense of evacuation prevented numerous Tyler County residents from re-evacuating for Hurricane Ike.

COUNTY IMPACTS

According to the Disaster Impact Model developed by Texas A&M AgriLife the estimated economic impact to Tyler County in the 12 month period following Ike was \$79.9 million. Among the 29 industry sectors evaluated in Tyler County, the real estate sector suffered the greatest loss at \$50.4 million.

Tyler County is more than 150 miles northeast of where Hurricane Ike made land fall and is located 90 miles inland from the Texas Gulf Coast.

**Tyler County
Economy-wide Ike Impact**

After Hurricane Ike (2008 4Q – 2009 3Q) Tyler County experienced on average a 28% per quarter reduction in gross sales during the four quarters following the storm. Total losses to the county are estimated at \$79.9 million.

However, the storm's strong winds and heavy rains still tore through the county, laying over trees and telephone poles along the way. Wind from Hurricane Ike damaged an estimated 21,000 acres of Tyler County's forest lands. Debris was a major problem following the storm and the cost of debris removal for Tyler exceeded \$ 2 million