



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

NEWS Release
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Progress Seen in New Orleans, Gulf Rebuilding Five Years After Katrina, Most Say Nation is Not Better Prepared

Five years after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, a majority of Americans (57%) say that the nation is no better prepared for hurricanes and other natural disasters than it was in 2005.

However, the public does see progress in rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf region: 69% say there has been a lot or some progress made rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf, up from 56% in 2006.

The national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Aug. 19-22 among 1,003 adults, finds that midway through the 2010 hurricane season, there is broad skepticism about the nation's preparedness to deal with hurricanes and other natural disasters. Majorities of most political and demographic groups – including 57% of Democrats and 54% of Republicans – say the nation is not better prepared for such disasters than it was when Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast.

College graduates are an exception; those with college degrees are about equally likely to say the country is better prepared (46%) as to say it is not better prepared (49%).

Most Say Nation Not Better Prepared for a Natural Disaster

	Better prepared %	Not better prepared %	DK %
Total	38	57	5=100
White, non-Hispanic	37	58	5=100
Black, non-Hispanic	40	54	7=100
College grad+	46	49	5=100
Some college	35	61	4=100
HS or less	35	61	5=100
Republican	43	54	3=100
Democrat	39	57	4=100
Independent	36	60	4=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 19-22, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

By contrast, just 35% of those who have not graduated from college say the country is better prepared, while 61% say it is not.

Progress since Katrina

Nearly seven-in-ten say a lot (14%) or some (55%) progress has been made over the past five years rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast following the damage from Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. This is significantly more than said progress had been made in December 2006. Nearly a quarter of Americans say not much (23%) or no (2%) progress has been made.

Across groups, substantial majorities say that a lot or some progress has been made rebuilding following the disaster. However, Democrats are somewhat less positive in their evaluations of progress compared to Republicans and independents; 63% of Democrats say a lot or some progress has been made, while 75% of Republicans and 74% of independents say this. College graduates are somewhat more likely than those without college degrees to say progress has been made (75% vs. 67%).

Those living in the South—which includes the Gulf Coast—are more likely than others to say progress has been made. Three-quarters of Southerners (75%) say at least some progress has been made, compared with two-thirds (66%) of those in other regions. And Southerners are about twice as likely as others to say there has been a lot of progress rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast (21% vs. 11%).

How Much Progress Rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast Since Katrina?

	Dec 2006 %	Aug 2010 %	Change
A lot	9	14	+5
Some	47	55	+8
Not much	33	23	-10
None at all	5	2	-3
Don't know	6	6	
	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 19-22, 2010.
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Progress Rebuilding Since Katrina

	A lot/ Some %	Not much/ None %	DK %
Total	69	25	6=100
White, non-Hispanic	70	24	6=100
Black, non-Hispanic	63	28	9=100
College grad+	75	22	4=100
Some college	68	27	5=100
HS or less	67	25	8=100
Republican	75	21	4=100
Democrat	63	33	5=100
Independent	74	20	6=100
Northeast	65	27	8=100
Midwest	68	27	5=100
South	75	22	3=100
West	65	25	10=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 19-22, 2010.
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About the Survey

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 1,003 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from August 19-22, 2010 (672 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 331 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 120 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2009 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,003	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	246	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	303	7.0 percentage points
Independents	370	6.5 percentage points

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

About the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

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AUGUST 19-22, 2010 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1003**

PEW.1-PEW.7 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

On another subject...

ASK ALL:

PEW.8 As you may know, it has been five years since Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast of the United States. Overall, do you think the country is now better prepared for hurricanes and other natural disasters than it was then, or not?

Aug 19-22

2010

38	Better prepared
57	Not better prepared
5	Don't know (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.9 And thinking specifically about how much you have heard or read about the damage from Hurricane Katrina, how much progress has been made over the past five years in rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast since the hurricane? **[READ IN ORDER]**?¹

Aug 19-22

2010

14	A lot
55	Some
23	Not much
2	None at all
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

December

2006

9
47
33
5
6

PEW.10-PEW.11 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

ASK IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No preference</u>	<u>Other party</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
Aug 19-22, 2010	22	29	39	7	*	3	14	14

¹ In December 2006, the question was worded: "From what you have heard or read, how much progress has been made so far in rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina?"