

OnTheMap for Emergency Management: Hurricanes

Local Employment Dynamics

All About Jobs

OnTheMap for Emergency Management: Hurricanes is a spinoff product of the innovative web-based mapping and reporting application *OnTheMap*.¹

OnTheMap for Emergency Management provides rapid access to labor market information for local areas, affected by emergency events such as hurricanes, tornados, floods, earthquakes or fires. Currently limited to hurricanes, the application will provide an easy-to-use tool that provides a live feed from the National Hurricane Center. When a storm's leading winds make landfall, in the U.S., the application will allow users to view the characteristics of the local workforce, such as the affected industries, the ages of workers and workers' earnings with a simple click of the link.

OnTheMap has been a useful tool and data source for emergency management before and after the occurrence of disasters. King County of Washington State used *OnTheMap* to assess the potential impact of flooding caused by failure of a dam in the Green River Valley². The Greater New Orleans Community Data Center used *OnTheMap* to report on the Post-Katrina Commuter Patterns³. The Illinois Department of Employment Security⁴ uses *OnTheMap* for assessment of tornadoes and other disasters; it has also proposed that estimates of disaster-related claims derived from *OnTheMap* can help to allocate resources and facilitate timely emergency service delivery.



In collaboration with the National Hurricane Center (NHC), the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Partnership is developing the inaugural version of *OnTheMap for Emergency Management: Hurricanes* that automatically captures the location of a hurricane from NHC in real time and reports the potential impacts of the hurricane on jobs and workers when the hurricane strikes the United States.

Depending on user interest and availability of reliable and sustainable data sources, future versions of *OnTheMap for Emergency Management* may include wildfires, floods, tornadoes, winter storms, tsunamis, earthquakes, and other natural and man-made disasters.

CONTACT: <CES.Local.Employment.Dynamics@census.gov>

¹ OnTheMap Version 4 available at <<http://lehdmap4.did.census.gov/themap4/>> as of July 9, 2010.

² Available at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/> as of July 9, 2010.

³ Available at <<http://www.gnocdc.org/CommuterPatterns/index.html>> as of July 9, 2010.

⁴ Available at <<http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/LED/Disaster%20Assessment.pdf>> as of July 9, 2010.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is OnTheMap for Emergency Management?

OnTheMap for Emergency Management provides rapid access to labor market information for local areas, affected by emergency events such as hurricanes, tornados, floods, earthquakes or fires. Currently limited to hurricanes, the application will provide an easy-to-use tool that provides a live feed from the National Hurricane Center. When a storm's leading winds make landfall, in the U.S., the application will allow users to view the characteristics of the local workforce, such as the affected industries, the ages of workers and workers' earnings with a simple click of the link.

2. What is wind swath? What does it cover?

The cumulative wind swath is defined by the National Weather Service, on an ongoing basis, throughout a storm's lifecycle and describes how the size of the storm has changed and the areas potentially affected so far by sustained winds of tropical storm force (34 Knot), 50 knot and hurricane force (64 knot) from a tropical cyclone. These data are based on the wind radii contained in the Automated Tropical Cyclone Forecasting (ATCF) system's working best track. The "working best track" represents the forecasters' best estimates of the location, intensity, and size of a tropical cyclone while the cyclone is ongoing. After the life cycle is complete, forecasters prepare a "final best track", using data that might not have been available operationally, and it is the final best track that represents NHC's official historical record for the cyclone.

3. What are "jobs" in the application?

OnTheMap for Emergency Management reports 2008 Primary Job figures. The LED Partnership defines a "primary job" as the one job for each worker that provides the most earnings. By analyzing primary jobs, you are seeing "one job per worker". The LED Partnership bases its job figures upon several core datasets provided by our state partners. These include Unemployment Insurance wage data and the Quarterly Census of Employment in Wages. Coverage under these datasets currently excludes several groups of workers such as:

- Federal Civilian Employees
- Uniformed Military
- Self-Employed Workers

Projects are currently underway to add Federal Civilian Employees and Self-Employed Workers to the LED data infrastructure. For further updates on these projects, please visit the [LED homepage](http://lehd.did.census.gov) at <<http://lehd.did.census.gov>>.

4. Can historical storm information be added?

Not at this time, but possibly in the future.

5. When will tornadoes and other natural disasters be added to the application?

Other natural disaster related data will be added to the application based on the availability of data and its compatibility with the system.

6. Can I get more detailed data than what OnTheMap for Emergency Management provides?

Yes. Many more layers of geographic details are available by using the main OnTheMap application, which is located at <<http://lehdmap4.did.census.gov/themap4/>>.

7. OnTheMap for Emergency Management provides jobs data from 2008. Are there more recent jobs data available?

The most recent available jobs data from OnTheMap is 2008. Jobs data for 2009 will be available in December 2010 when the new version of OnTheMap will be released. Currently, 2009 jobs data are available for limited geographies (states, counties, metropolitan areas, and Workforce Investment Areas only) through the Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) located at <<http://lehd.did.census.gov/led/datatools/qwiapp.html>>.

8. How do I send suggestions and comments about the application?

Please send an email to <CES.Local.Employment.Dynamics@census.gov>