

Hurricane Research Division

How many direct hits by hurricanes of various categories have affected each state?

Contributed by Chris Landsea

This table, updated from Jarrell et al. (2001), shows the number of hurricanes affecting the United States and individual states, i.e., direct hits. The table shows that, on the average, close to seven hurricanes every four years (~1.75 per year) strike the United States, while about three major hurricanes cross the U.S. coast every five years (0.60 per year). Other noteworthy facts, updated from Jarrell et al. (2001), are:

1. Forty percent of all U.S. hurricanes hit Florida
2. Eighty-three percent of category 4 or higher hurricanes strikes have hit either Florida or Texas
3. Pennsylvania's only hurricane strike between 1851-2004 was in 1898 (from Blake et al. 2005).

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Notes:

State totals will not equal U.S. totals and Texas and Florida totals will not necessarily equal sum of sectional totals since storms may be counted for more than one state or region. Regional definitions are found in Appendix A of Jarrell et al. (2001).

Reference

Blake, E.S., E.N. Rappaport, J.D. Jarell, and C.W. Landsea, 2005: "The Deadliest, Costliest, and Most Intense United States Hurricanes from 1851 to 2004 (and Other Frequently Requested Hurricane Facts.) *NOAA Technical Memorandum NWS-TPC-4*, 48 pp.

Jarell, J.D., B.M. Mayfield, E.N. Rappaport, and C.W. Landsea, 2001: "The Deadliest, Costliest, and Most Intense United States Hurricanes from 1900 to 2000 (and Other Frequently Requested Hurricane Facts.) *NOAA Technical Memorandum NWS-TPC-3*, 30 pp.

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Hurricane direct hits on the mainland U.S. coastline and for individual states by Saffir/Simpson category 1851-2009

AREA	CATEGORY						Major Hurricanes
	1	2	3	4	5	ALL	
U.S. Coastline (Texas to Maine)	115	76	76	18	3	288	97
Texas	25	19	12	7	0	63	19
North	13	8	3	4	0	28	7
Central	7	5	2	2	0	16	4
South	10	5	7	1	0	23	8
Louisiana	18	15	15	4	1	53	20
Mississippi	2	5	8	0	1	16	9
Alabama	12	5	6	0	0	23	6
Florida	44	33	29	6	2	114	37
Northwest	27	16	12	0	0	55	12
Northeast	13	8	1	0	0	22	1
Southwest	16	8	7	4	1	36	12
Southeast	13	13	11	3	1	41	15
Georgia	12	5	2	1	0	20	3
South Carolina	19	6	4	2	0	31	6
North Carolina	22	13	11	1	0	46	13
Virginia	9	2	1	0	0	12	1
Maryland	1	1	0	0	0	2	0
Delaware	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
New Jersey	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Pennsylvania	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
New York	6	1	5	0	0	12	5
Connecticut	4	3	3	0	0	10	3
Rhode Island	3	2	4	0	0	9	4
Massachusetts	5	2	3	0	0	10	3
New Hampshire	1	1	0	0	0	2	0
Maine	5	1	0	0	0	6	0

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