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July 27, 2023

2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season

Differing Predictions Released About Hurricane Activity

While last year's Hurricane Ian devastated Florida and the Carolinas, Louisiana experienced a quiet hurricane season in 2022. This year, the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) predicts "near normal" hurricane activity in the Atlantic for the season that started June 1 and will end November 30.

This is the first hurricane season since 2015 that federal officials suggested could be near normal, after seven years of predictions of above average hurricane seasons. Forecasters at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center anticipate a likely range of 12 to 17 named storms, five to nine hurricanes and one to four major hurricanes. Four named storms already have formed this season: Tropical Storms Arlene, Bret, Cindy and Don.

But not everyone agrees with the May predictions issued by the federal agency.

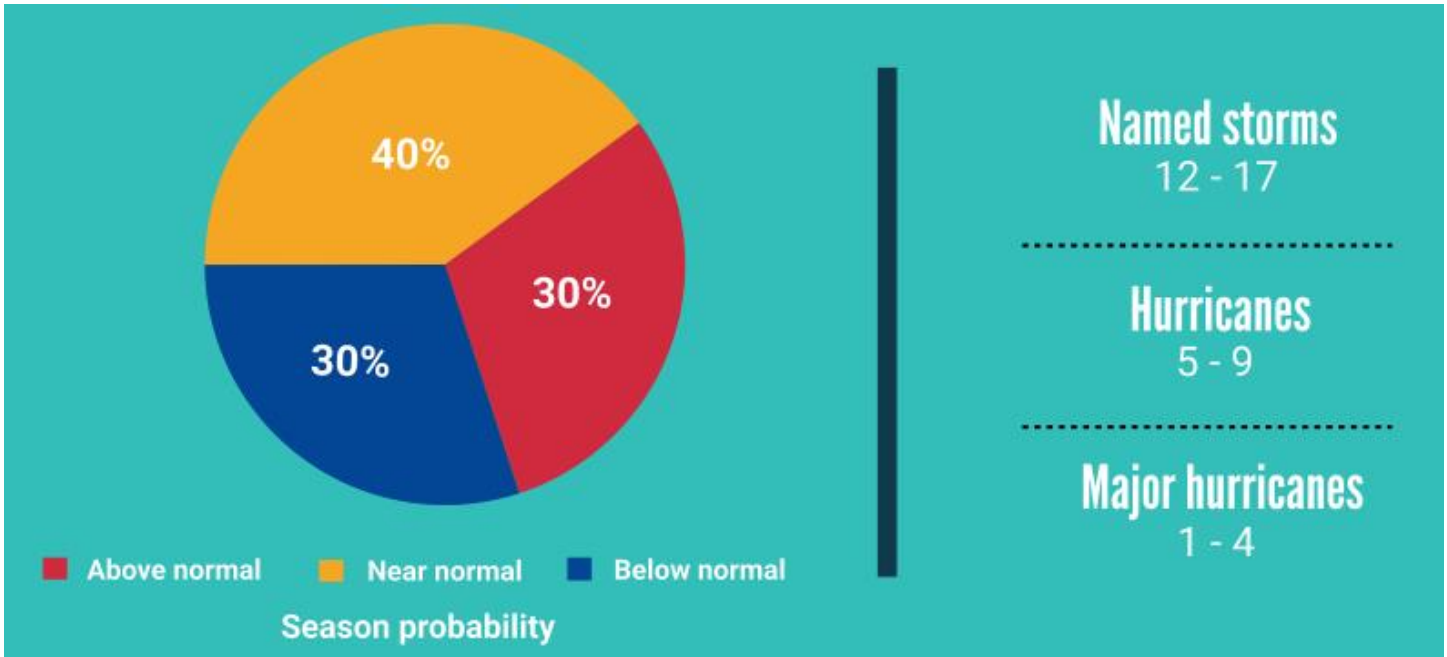
Meteorologists at Colorado State University updated their forecast July 6, saying they expect an above average hurricane season. The university forecasts an average of 18 named storms, nine hurricanes and four major hurricanes.

The [Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale](#) rates hurricanes on a one-to-five scale based on their maximum sustained wind speed. All storms that reach a wind speed of 74 miles per hour are considered hurricanes, and those that reach at least 111 miles per hour are considered major hurricanes.



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Federal Predictions for 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season



Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, May 2023

As Louisiana braces for another hurricane season, an overview of the human and financial impact of past major hurricanes puts into perspective what residents have endured.

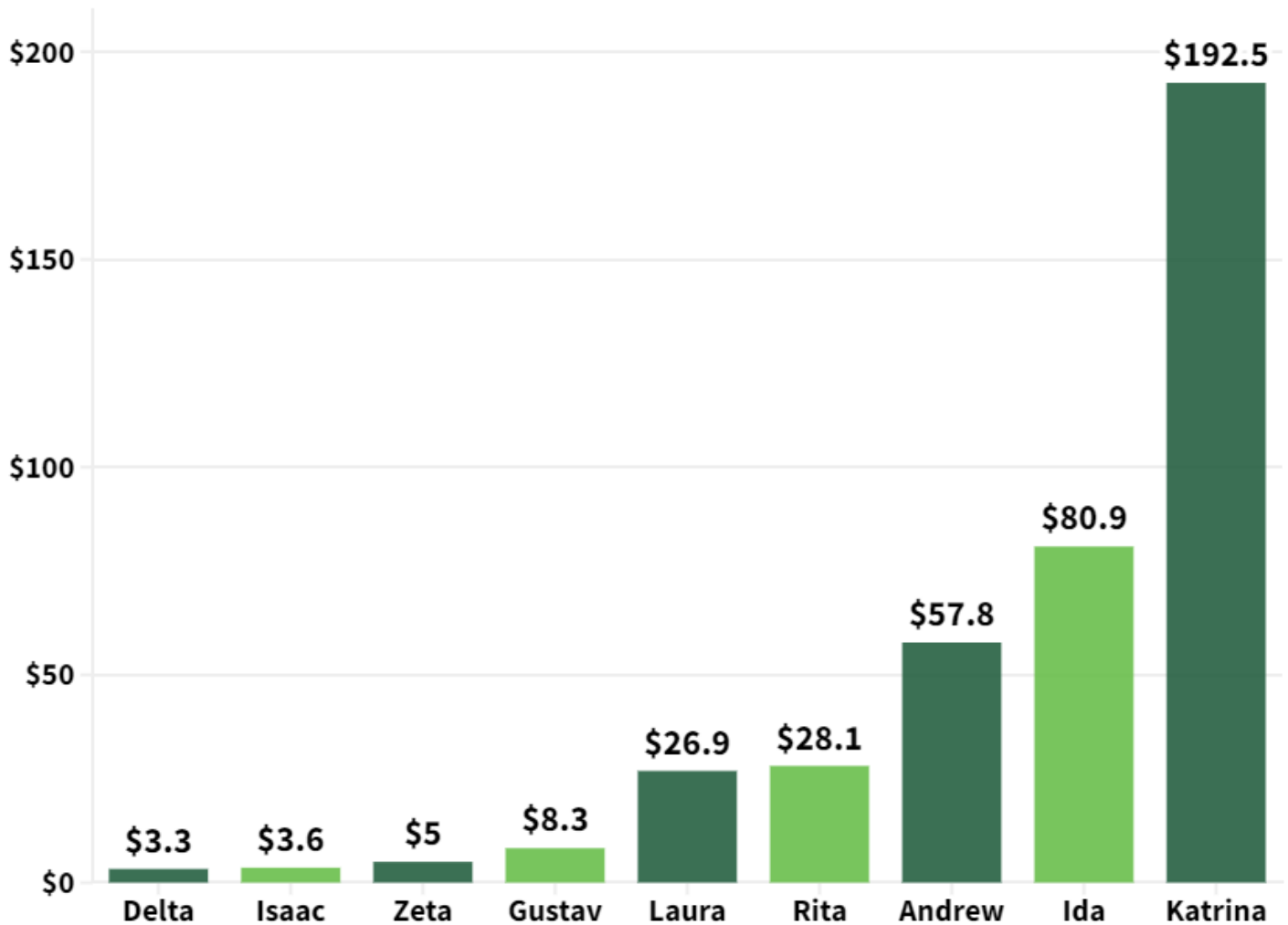
Hurricane Katrina is among the deadliest storms to ever strike Louisiana; the 2005 storm is blamed for more than 1,000 deaths in the state and hundreds more across the Gulf Coast. Two years ago, Hurricane Ida was blamed for at least 26 deaths across southeastern Louisiana, according to state health department data.

Along with the loss of life, hurricanes have cost Louisiana and the country billions of dollars in damage to infrastructure, homes, businesses and crops. No matter the size or intensity of the storm, hurricanes of all categories can produce deadly storm surge, rain-induced floods and tornadoes.



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Costliest Hurricanes to Hit Louisiana, in Billions



Source: NOAA / National Centers for Environmental Information / National Hurricane Center Cost values are based on the 2023 Consumer Price Index adjusted cost

The National Centers for Environmental Information, in collaboration with the National Hurricane Center, compiled a list of the costliest hurricanes to impact the United States. Of the top 10 storms on the list, three hurricanes made landfall in Louisiana: Hurricane Andrew in 1992, Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Hurricane Ida in 2021.



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Hurricane Katrina ranked as the most destructive hurricane to impact the country, according to the data. The Category 3 hurricane cost \$193.8 billion, when adjusted for inflation. The eight costliest storms impacting Louisiana after Katrina collectively cost the country \$215.9 billion.

Federal officials determined the estimated costs of each hurricane by looking at insured and uninsured property losses, agricultural damages and federal assistance paid to storm victims and government agencies. The data presents expenses that would not have existed if the hurricane had not struck.

To track hurricanes and tropical storms in real time, visit the [National Hurricane Center](#). For tips on how to prepare for hurricane season, check out Louisiana's [getagameplan.org](#).