

Paths of destruction

Mid-August to late October is the peak time for hurricanes, with certain regions of the Atlantic basin more fertile than others. However, hurricanes can originate in different locations and travel much different paths. Of the 273 hurricanes to strike the United States from 1851 to 2004, Florida has been hit 110 times, Texas 59, Louisiana 49 and North Carolina 46.

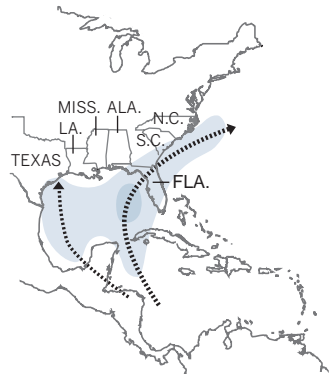
Areas of probable hurricane formation and track

Likely
 More Likely
 Most Likely
 Prevailing track

Hurricane season

There were 92 direct hits by major hurricanes (Category 3 to 5) on the U.S. mainland from 1851 to 2004. By month:

June (2)



States hit most often:

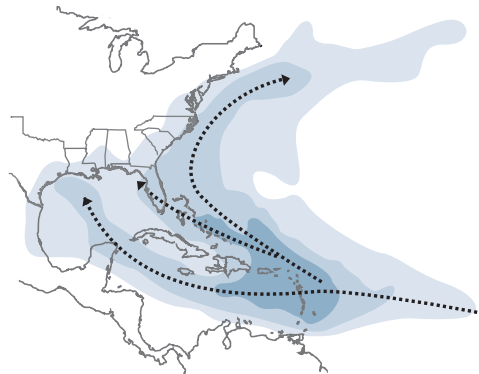
Louisiana (2)

July (4)



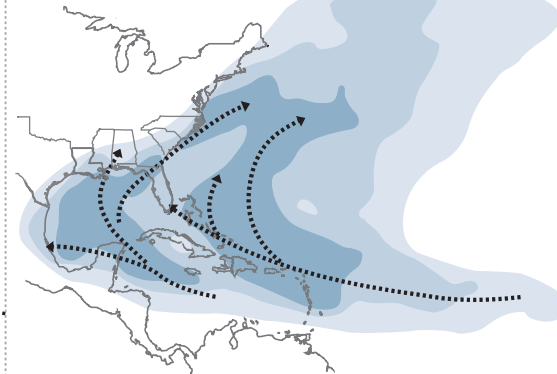
Texas (1), Mississippi (1),
Alabama (1), Florida (1)

August (26)



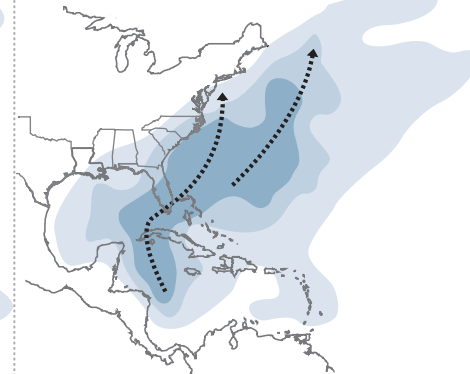
Texas (10), Louisiana (6), Florida (6)

September (43)



Florida (19), Louisiana (7), North Carolina (7),
Texas (7)

October (17)



Florida (9), Louisiana (3), South Carolina (2)

Sources: NOAA, National Hurricane Center, Associated Press. Graphics reporting by JOEL GREENBERG