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## New Orleans' Recovery as of August 2006

New Orleans has always been and remains one of the world's most intriguing cities and special destinations. These are the latest facts on its recovery:

- **Population.** The current population of the Greater New Orleans metropolitan area, as of Feb. 2006, reaches 881,613 according to the New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau.
- **Restaurants.** The Louisiana Restaurant Association says the current status of New Orleans restaurants is improving. LRA reports that there are 1,239 (out of 1,882) restaurants open in Orleans parish. The organization also reports that the local restaurant industry could immediately employ another 5,000 people if they were available.
- **Hotels.** Currently there are 178 metro area hotels and motels in operation with 27,921 rooms in inventory. In Orleans Parish there are 21,000 rooms in inventory and pre-Katrina there were 27,000 rooms. Also prior to Katrina, there were 265 hotels with an inventory of 38,338.
- **Flights.** Prior to Katrina, Louis Armstrong International Airport had 166 flights daily. As of August, the airport will service 107 daily flights and 12,224 seats to 33 cities.
- **Public Transit.** Twenty-nine bus lines are running, providing 25,000 rides daily. While the St. Charles Avenue streetcar line was hardest hit, its cars are in operation on Canal Street downtown ready to treat visitors to that classic experience. The entire Riverfront line, Canal Street line and its Carrollton spur will be fully operational. The Riverfront line features a LIFT friendly car – painted blue. Portions of the St. Charles line, in particular, within the Central Business District downtown, looks to be operational again by early 2007. The entire line, extending up Carrollton Avenue from St. Charles Avenue, may be fully operational by the end of 2007. FEMA is no longer paying to keep the transportation free – fares are \$1.25 each way. Tokens purchased before Katrina will be accepted.

• **Local Businesses.** According to statistics from the Louisiana Department of Economic Development as reported by the *Times Picayune* on April 16, 2006, out of 81,000 local businesses in 10 parishes affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, 62,300 have reopened. According to the LDED, 17,716 of Orleans Parish's businesses have reopened. The Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Refund Center is also open at the Riverwalk on Thursdays and Fridays from 10:30 am to 3:30am.

• **Morial Convention Center** reopened a majority of their facility the last two weeks in June. The rest of the convention center will open by November. Renovations are 70% finished with Halls D-J being open for meetings.

Upcoming events:

o The 2008 NBA All-Star Jam Session-February 13-18, Halls E-J.

• **The Port of New Orleans.** Operating at 100% of its total capacity, all of the ports stevedores and terminal operators are open during normal business hours. The cruise industry will return in October 2006 with the *Norwegian Sun* of Norwegian Cruise Lines and the *Fantasy* of Carnival Cruise Lines. On December 2, 2006 *The Grandeur of The Seas* of Royal Caribbean International Cruise Lines will return to service New Orleans. American Association of Port Authorities' Annual Convention to be held in New Orleans, Sept. 10-14th.

• **Superdome.** The state has fast-tracked efforts to restore the Superdome to pre-hurricane conditions in time to host a capacity crowd by September. The New Orleans Saints will play the Atlanta Falcons on Sept. 25 in the first event scheduled for the Louisiana Superdome since Katrina. The saints will play all eight regular season games in the Dome this season. The Saints have announced that they have broken the franchise record for season ticket sales, a total of 54,969 to date, with the home season opener still three months away.

o **The 2007 Sugar Bowl** will be played at the Louisiana Superdome January 2, 2007.

o **The New Orleans Bowl** will return with an ESPN telecast game on December 22, 2007.

o **Saints** announce they have broken the franchise record for season ticket sales, a total of 54,969 to date, with the home season opener still four months away.

o **2008 NBA All-Star** events will be held in New Orleans, with the All-Star Game at the New Orleans Arena.

• **Hospitals.** As reported June 14 by the Louisiana Hospital Association, 11 of a pre-Katrina 17 acute care hospitals are reopened in Orleans and Jefferson parishes.

#### **Orleans Parish:**

Children's Hospital

Elmwood Hospital (replaces Charity)

Touro Infirmary

Tulane University

**Jefferson Parish:**

East Jefferson General  
Kenner Regional  
Lakeside Hospital  
Meadowcrest Hospital  
Oschner Clinic Foundation  
Omega Hospital  
West Jefferson Medical Center

• **Local Colleges.** University of New Orleans, Tulane University, Loyola, Dillard, Xavier, Delgado Community College, Southern University at New Orleans, Southeastern Louisiana University, Our Lady of Holy Cross College, Nunez Community College, and Louisiana Technical College are all open. Tulane officials say the reopening of just their campus has brought back 25,000 students.

**• August Events:****Through Nov 4**

City of Hope Exhibition at the Historic New Orleans Collection

**Through Sept 17**

"Katrina Exposed: A Community of Photographs" Exhibit at New Orleans Museum of Art

**Jul 22-Sept 17**

Gina Phillips: Ten Year Survey at the Contemporary Arts Center

**Aug 10**

Thursdays at Twilight Garden Concert Series at City Park's Botanical Gardens

**Aug 10**

New Orleans Cooking Experience's Great Chefs Summer Series at New Orleans Cooking Experience

**Aug 10**

Dr. Phil and Friends - A Benefit for New Orleans featuring Brooks and Dunn with Brian McKnight, Allen Toussaint, Jeff Foxworthy at the New Orleans Arena

**Aug 10**

Katrina Kapers: A Musical Hurricane Parody CD Release Party and Benefit at Tipitina's

**Aug 10-Dec 31**

National Geographic Hurricane Katrina Photo Exhibition at the Louisiana State Museum

**Aug 12**

Dirty Linen Night on Royal Street (600 – 100 block)

**Aug 13**

The Rhythmic Roots Drum Circle at St. Augustine Church

**Aug 17**

Thursdays at Twilight Garden Concert Series at City Park Botanical Gardens

**Aug 17**

New Orleans Cooking Experience's Great Chefs Summer Series at New Orleans Cooking Experience

**Aug 24**

Thursdays at Twilight Garden Concert Series at City Park's Botanical Gardens

**Aug 24**

New Orleans Cooking Experience's Great Chefs Summer Series at New Orleans Cooking Experience

**Aug 26**

Mid-City Art Market at City Park

**Aug 30-Sept 4**

Southern Decadence

The New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation promotes the city as a leisure tourism destination throughout the year and places special emphasis on developing visitation during the traditionally slow travel periods of summer and the weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Annually, NOTMC's marketing campaigns include strategic print, broadcast, and Internet advertising and public relations. For more information, please call 504-524-4784, or visit our websites – [www.NewOrleansOnline.com](http://www.NewOrleansOnline.com), [www.NewOrleansMuseums.com](http://www.NewOrleansMuseums.com) and soon, [www.HearNewOrleansMusic.com](http://www.HearNewOrleansMusic.com).

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