

**The Regional Economic Impacts of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on
Oil and Gas Refinery Operations in the Gulf of Mexico
and the Rest of the U.S.:
Applying a Flexible Multi-regional Input-Output Model**

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Abstract

U.S. economic growth seems to be on its long run growth path of over 3% annual GDP growth -- in spite of the 2001 attacks, the 2002 recession, the war, the tech bust, the housing bust, the oil price shock. The economy is seemingly quite resilient.

Our economic impact modeling has emphasized the importance of spatial detail. We have studied economic impacts applying a 50-state (and DC) multi-regional input-output model. Can an approach like this help us to study economic resilience? An experiment with a new model, FlexNIEMO, and data from the Gulf Coast oil and gas refinery disruptions from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita suggests that it can.