

## [EconSouth Third Quarter 2013](#)

**“The Big Busy,” by Charles Davidson, a staff writer for *EconSouth***

### **Discussion questions**

1. From 2008 to 2011, how did New Orleans’ growth compare to that of the United States?
2. Outside of federal aid that the city received for Hurricane Katrina recovery, what other positive economic trends has the city seen in sectors such as tourism, entrepreneurship, wages and employment, and population?
3. What is “brain drain”? How has this affected New Orleans in the past? Is there evidence that this trend may be reversing for the city today? If so, what trends indicate that the city no longer is suffering from “brain drain”?
4. Give three reasons why the wetlands are important to Louisiana’s economy.
5. What three “fundamentals” does Michael Hecht, the president and CEO of Greater New Orleans, see as important to the city, and how is the city managing them differently these days?
6. How has the income level of New Orleans’ residents changed since Hurricane Katrina?
7. What challenges still remain for the area? Why has it been important that New Orleans is both a start-up and a start-over city?

### **Related links**

[New Orleans Convention and Visitor’s Bureau](#)

Use this site as a guide to the city’s attractions and events.

[City of New Orleans](#)

Use this website for information about city government and services for residents, businesses, and visitors.

[U.S. Geological Survey National Wetlands Research Center](#)

Use this resource for scientific information on the ecology of this valuable ecosystem.

[“Mitch Landrieu on New Orleans’s ‘Economic Miracle’”](#)

Read this article on the city’s economic recovery after Hurricane Katrina.

[Louisiana Economic Development](#)

Use the site for case studies, a primer on Louisiana’s most important industries, and statistics and rankings for the state’s business environment.