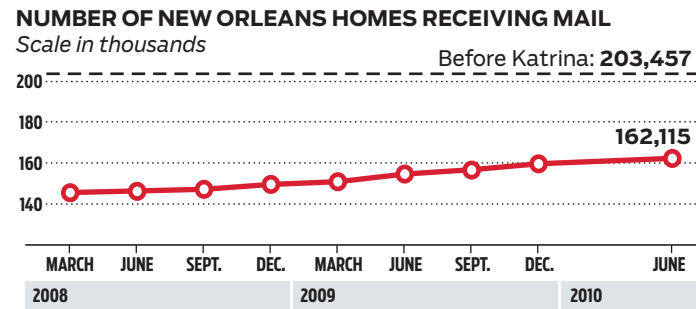


Returning to the Big Easy

By measuring the number of homes receiving mail from the U.S. Postal Service, demographers have been able to chart the slow repopulation of New Orleans in the five years since Hurricane Katrina devastated the city. While much progress has been made, thanks in part to federal programs to fund rebuilding, the city's population remains well below pre-Katrina levels.

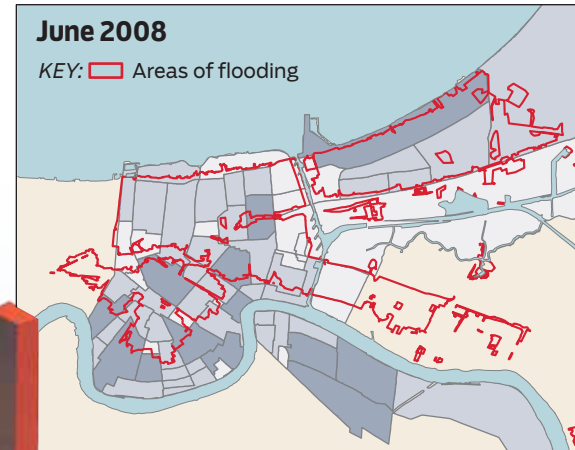
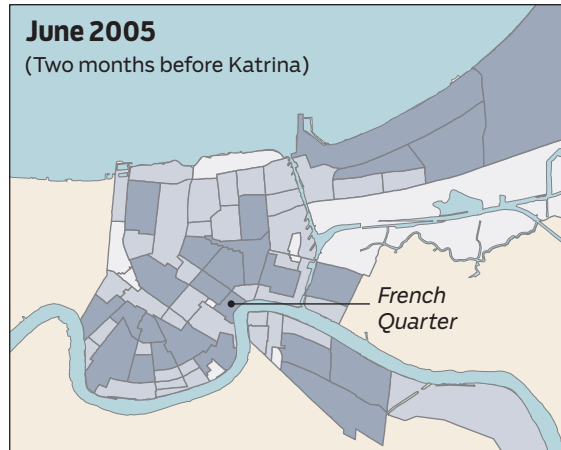


Empty pockets

Three years after the hurricane, much of the city was still uninhabited, due in large part to the inability of lower-income residents to finance rebuilding efforts.

HOMES RECEIVING MAIL by neighborhood

- 1,000 or fewer
- 1,001 - 3,000
- More than 3,000



Coming back

PERCENT CHANGE IN HOMES RECEIVING MAIL 2008-10

By city block

- 25% or lower
- 25.1-50%
- Higher than 50%

(Height of block indicates growth rate)

Mid-City
A string of new developments on Tulane Street account for these spikes in population growth.

Northern coast neighborhoods

These mixed-income areas show a weaker repopulation rate because many homeowners had money or insurance coverage allowing them to return earlier.

Block includes renovated apartment complex

Lower 9th Ward/Holy Cross

Among the city's poorest neighborhoods, these areas have boomed in repopulation as many homeowners have received federal assistance to rebuild from a program that began in 2007.

Central City

Like the Lower 9th Ward, this relatively poor section has witnessed a recent surge in population as federal dollars have helped homeowners rebuild.

NOTE: Blocks with zero or negative change are not shown

SOURCE: Greater New Orleans Community Data Center

MAX RUST AND PHIL GEIB/TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS