

Section
12

Union County's pre-disaster economy was healthy, based on employment and income data. Fifty-four Union County businesses sustained major damage from Hurricane Floyd, 212 sustained minor damage, and an additional 162 were affected. Total damage to businesses was estimated at approximately \$440,000 and was widespread throughout the county. Union County is not expected to experience any short- or long-term economic effects from Hurricane Floyd.

12.1 Pre-Disaster Conditions

Union County's pre-disaster economy can be characterized as healthy, based upon available employment and income data. Per capita income in Union County was \$35,157 in 1997. Average 1998 unemployment for the county was 4.8 percent, compared to 4.6 percent for the State.

Union County's primary industries are in the services and manufacturing sectors, based on the number of employed individuals (see Table 12-1). These categories comprise 30 percent and 25 percent of Union County's industrial base, respectively. Retail and wholesale

Table 12-1 Primary Industries in Union County (1996)

Sector	Number of Establishments	Number Employed
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	222	558
Mining	5	< 100
Construction	1,390	9,352
Manufacturing	1,048	53,933
Transportation & Public Utilities	805	21,205
Wholesale Trade	1,361	25,009
Retail Trade	3,136	30,700
FIRE	1,398	12,861
Services	5,303	65,645
Unclassified	5	< 100
Total	14,673	219,307

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Section 12

trade accounts for 14 percent and 11 percent, respectively. From 1996 to 2006, employment in the service and the public sectors is expected to increase substantially at annual rates of 1.2 percent and 0.9 percent, respectively. Employment in manufacturing is expected to decrease at an annual rate of 1.0 percent.

12.2 Post-Disaster Conditions

In Union County, 54 businesses sustained major damage, 212 sustained minor damage, and an additional 162 were affected. Total damage to businesses was estimated at approximately \$440,000. FEMA CR reports indicate business damage was widespread throughout the county.

One hundred twenty-three businesses in Union County teleregistered with FEMA as of November 1, 1999. As of January 13, 2000, five businesses in Union County were approved for physical loans with SBA. The total value of these loans was \$142,000. The SBA approved economic injury loans for four businesses at a total of \$168,000.

12.3 Conclusions

Union County's primary economic sectors are service and manufacturing, which account for 55 percent of the county's base. Retail and wholesale trade contribute an additional 25 percent. Unemployment and per capita income are near the averages for New Jersey and the county's economy is strong.

Damage in Union County was notable for the number of businesses impacted—more than 400. In monetary terms, however, this damage was relatively low: \$440,000, for an average of just over \$1,000 per business. Anecdotal data suggests that this damage was spread throughout the county and not concentrated in any community. Due to the economic strength of the county and the relatively minor damage its businesses experienced, Union County should not experience significant short- or long-term economic effects from Hurricane Floyd. Municipalities should consider implementing appropriate recommendations described in Section 3.4.