

Economist	Grade	Comments
Robert A. Brusca Chief Economist, FAO Economics	A+	This is tricky. Give the economy an "A-plus" since the economy handled it pretty well. But, and this is a big but, there was a lot of pain and suffering that the government did not handle well at all. You do not discern pain and suffering from how fast GDP or job growth gets back on trend. It is amazing that the President, FEMA, Mayor and Governor handled this so badly and all suffered so little from their mishandling.
Mark Zandi Chief Economist, Moody's Economy.com	A	National economic response has been an "A." Regional economic response has been a "F."
Dan Meckstroth Chief Economist and Council Director, Manufacturers Alliance/MAPI	A	An "A" in terms of maintaining economic growth. However, GDP only measures current production and does not account for the loss of wealth. I would give an "F" to the local, state and federal disaster response in the affected region.
Bill Dunkelberg Chief Economist, National Federation of Independent Business	A	The economy gets an "A" -- a very strong private sector responds quickly and efficiently. Different investment decisions will be made by private sector, assessing the risks and deciding whether to rebuild or relocate, etc. (workers and firms).
Daniel E. Laufenberg Vice President and Chief Economist, Ameriprise Financial	A	I would give the U.S. economy an "A." This is not the grade I would give FEMA, the State of Louisiana, or the City of New Orleans.
William Niskanen Chairman, Cato Institute	A-	Corps of Engineers D City of New Orleans C- State of Louisiana C FEMA C+ Red Cross B General economy A- Salvation Army A Wal-Mart A+
Joe LaVorgna Chief U.S. Economist, Deutsche Bank	B+/A-	
David Wyss Chief Economist, Standard and Poor's	B+	The economy gets a "B+." The federal, state and local governments get a "D" and that's being generous.
Peter E. Kretzmer Senior Economist, Bank of America	B+	
Jared Bernstein	B+	Economy: "B+" FEMA: "F-"

Senior Economist, Economic Policy Institute		
Doug Duncan Chief Economist, Mortgage Bankers Association	B+	
Robert P. Hartwig , Executive Vice President & Chief Economist Insurance Information Institute	B+	"B+." I would have given it a higher grade were it not for persistently high energy prices.
Dean Baker Economist and Co- Director, Center for Economic Policy and Research	C	I would give the economy a "C". Most developed country economies recover quickly from a major weather disaster (e.g. Germany after the floods in 2001). The U.S. did recover, but the fact that there was a serious shortage of refinery capacity led to a larger and longer run-up in prices than most economists had anticipated.