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- Hurricane Katrina's economic impact will be measurable, but manageable.
- Disruption due to the storm and higher energy prices will weigh on growth through the remainder of the year, but rebuilding and lower energy prices will lift growth early next.
- Mitigating the fallout from Katrina is the economy's underlying strength.
- Fueling growth are more aggressive businesses, powered by surging profits and cashflow and solid balance sheets. Housing and mortgage markets are soaring.
- The economy faces a tricky near-term economic outlook as the sources of growth begin to shift.
- Higher energy prices and interest rates are threats to the sanguine near-term outlook. The vehicle and housing markets, and lower-income households are particularly vulnerable.
- Ballooning federal budget and current account deficits are also economic threats.



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