USDA Economic Research Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A report summary from the Economic Research Service

The Food and Nutrition Assistance Landscape: Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report

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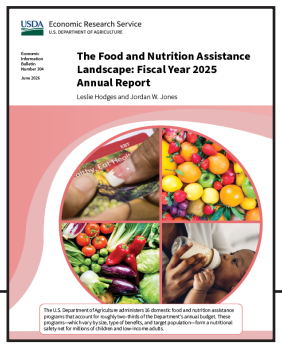


Key Points

- Total Federal spending on USDA's food and nutrition assistance programs increased by 1.5 percent from $145.6 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2024 to $147.9 billion in FY 2025. Adjusted for inflation, annual spending was 1.1 percent lower than in FY 2024.
- Spending on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) totaled $101.7 billion in FY 2025, more than two-thirds of total USDA food and nutrition assistance spending. SNAP spending was up 2 percent from FY 2024. SNAP participation increased by 1 percent to an average of 42.1 million people per month.
- Participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) averaged 6.9 million women, infants, and children per month in FY 2025, and participation among all three groups increased from FY 2024. WIC spending totaled $7.7 billion, up 6 percent from FY 2024, reflecting increases in participation (2 percent) and food costs per participant (6 percent) from FY 2024.
- In FY 2025, 9.3 billion meals were served across the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), about the same number of meals as in FY 2024. Combined spending on these programs totaled $29.9 billion, up 5 percent from FY 2024.
- FY 2025 was the second year of operation of the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (Summer EBT) Program. Spending on Summer EBT totaled $2.7 billion in FY 2025, down 7 percent from FY 2024.

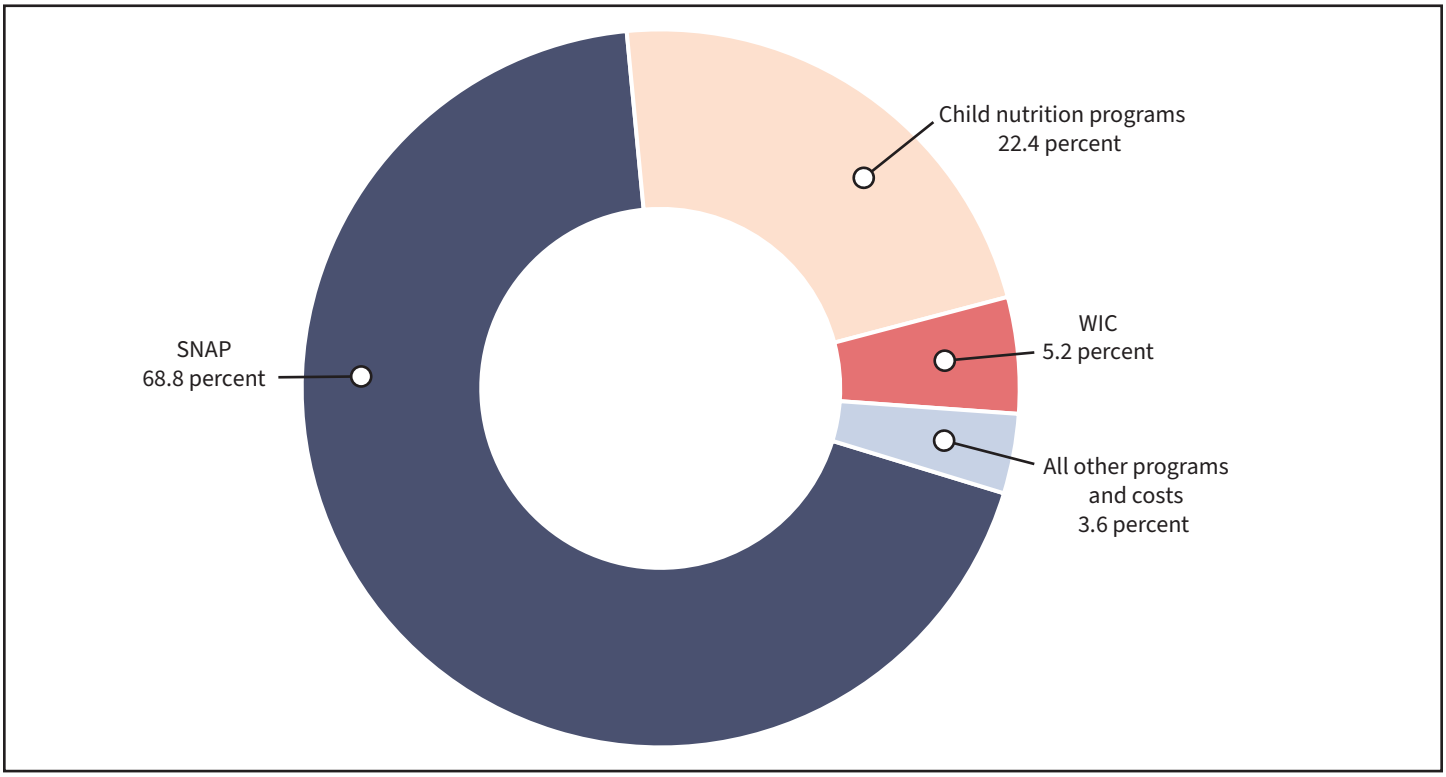
Why Does This Matter?

USDA administers 16 domestic food and nutrition assistance programs that affect the lives of millions of people and account for roughly two-thirds of USDA's annual budget. These programs include SNAP, WIC, the school meal programs, and other smaller programs. Over a typical year, about one in four people in the United States participates in at least one of these programs. This annual report provides updated information that can be used to monitor the changing landscape for USDA's largest domestic food and nutrition assistance programs, including trends in program participation and spending, relevant policy changes, and trends in economic and social indicators that affect these programs. In addition, this report includes a summary of recent USDA, Economic Research Service (ERS) research relevant to these programs.

A Few More Details

We used preliminary data from USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to examine program trends through FY 2025. We compared spending amounts to previous years using nominal dollar values when considering a shorter timespan or using inflation-adjusted dollars when looking back over a longer period of time. Program data for FY 2025 came from the October 2025 Program Information Report (Keydata) released in January 2026. Program data for FY 2024 came from the September 2025 Program Information Report (Keydata) released in December 2025. Program data for prior fiscal years came from historical program data released in December 2025. We also examined economic and demographic indicators using supplementary data.

Share of USDA food and nutrition assistance spending by program, fiscal year 2025
SNAP accounted for more than two-thirds of spending



SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. WIC = Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. Child nutrition programs = National School Lunch Program; School Breakfast Program; Child and Adult Care Food Program; Summer Food Service Program; Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program; related State administrative expenses; and other related child nutrition costs.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using USDA, Food and Nutrition Service data.

ERS is a primary source of economic research and analysis from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, providing timely information on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America.