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The Food and Nutrition Assistance Landscape: Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report

Jordan W. Jones, Jessica E. Todd, and Saied Toossi



The U.S. Department of Agriculture administers 16 domestic food and nutrition assistance programs that account for roughly two-thirds of the Department's annual budget. These programs—which vary by size, type of benefits, and target population—form a nutritional safety net for millions of children and low-income adults.



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The Food and Nutrition Assistance Landscape: Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report

Jordan W. Jones, Jessica E. Todd, and Saied Toossi

Abstract

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (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. Together, these programs contributed \$142.2 billion in spending on food and nutrition assistance programs in fiscal year (FY) 2024 (October 1, 2023–September 30, 2024). This report provides an overview of program trends and policy changes in USDA's largest domestic food and nutrition assistance programs through FY 2024 based on preliminary data from the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). It also includes a summary of recent USDA, Economic Research Service (ERS) research reports relevant to these programs. Excluding spending on the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (Summer EBT or SUN Bucks) Program, total program spending fell by 16 percent from FY 2023. The decline was driven by the expiration of the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program in the previous year, as well as lower spending on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) following the end of emergency allotment issuance in FY 2023. Spending on, and participation in, other major programs increased in FY 2024, and Summer EBT began operation as USDA's 16th permanent nutrition assistance program.

Keywords: Food and nutrition assistance programs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), child nutrition programs, fiscal year 2024 spending

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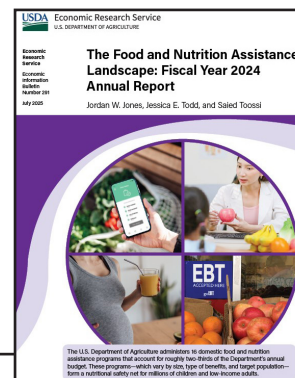
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A report summary from the Economic Research Service

The Food and Nutrition Assistance Landscape: Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report

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Key Points

- Total Federal spending on USDA's food and nutrition assistance programs decreased by 16 percent from \$168.3 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2023 to \$142.2 billion in FY 2024. Adjusted for inflation, annual spending was 32 percent lower than in FY 2021, the historic high, and similar to spending in FY 2013, the pre-Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic high.
- Spending on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) totaled \$99.8 billion in FY 2024, down 12 percent from FY 2023. The expiration of emergency allotments in FY 2023 and a 1-percent decline in participation (to an average of 41.7 million people per month) contributed to the decline. Adjusted for inflation, the 14-percent decline from FY 2023 to 2024 was larger than for any other year on record.
- Participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) averaged 6.7 million women, infants, and children in FY 2024, and participation among all three groups increased. WIC spending totaled \$7.2 billion, up 7 percent from FY 2023, reflecting increases in participation (2 percent) and food costs per participant (9 percent) from FY 2023.
- In FY 2024, 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), up 4 percent from FY 2023. Combined spending on these programs totaled \$28.2 billion, also up 4 percent from FY 2023.
- FY 2024 saw continued changes in food and nutrition assistance, including the end of Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) issuance and the start of the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (Summer EBT or SUN Bucks) Program.

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 participate in at least one of these programs. FY 2024 marked the first full fiscal year following the 2023 expiration of the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration and was the first full year of program operation after most temporary pandemic response-related provisions had ended. Overall spending continued to fall from its peak in FY 2021, primarily driven by decreases in spending on SNAP following the expira-

tion of emergency allotments and the end of P-EBT benefit issuance in FY 2023. USDA's food and nutrition assistance programs continued to evolve in FY 2024, which was the first year of operation of the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program (Summer EBT). 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.

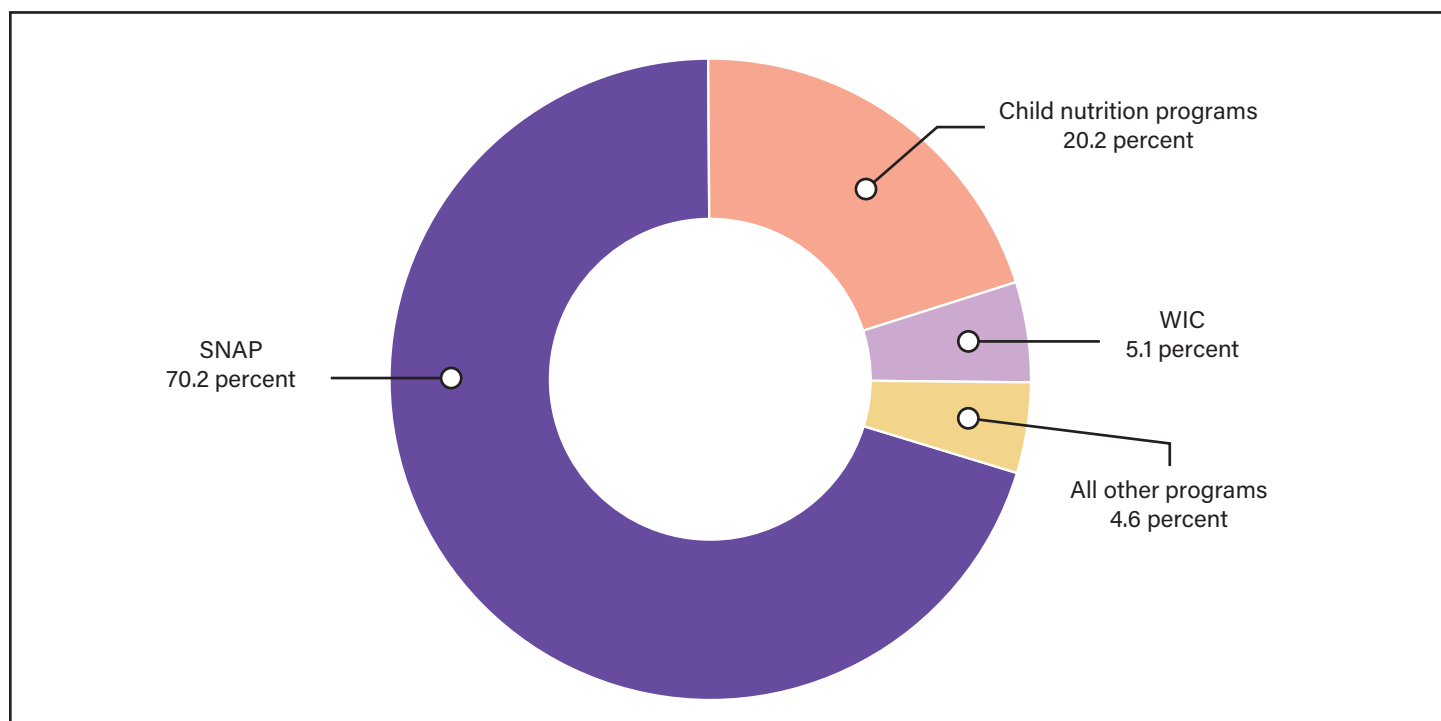
Highlights

A Few More Details

We used preliminary data from USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to examine program trends through FY 2024. 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 FYs 2023 and 2024 came from the September 2024 Program Information Report (Keydata) released in December 2024. Program data for prior FYs came from historical program data released in December 2024. Data on Summer EBT was not available as of April 2025, when this report was finalized. We also examined economic and social indicators using supplementary data.

USDA food and nutrition assistance spending by program, fiscal year 2024

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; related State administrative expenses; and other related child nutrition costs. All other programs does not include spending on the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program (Summer EBT or SUN Bucks), for which data were not available as of April 2025.

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

The Food and Nutrition Assistance Landscape: Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report

Introduction

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers 16 domestic food and nutrition assistance programs, accounting for two-thirds of USDA's annual budget. Together, these programs (which vary by size, type of benefits provided, and target population) form a nutritional safety net for tens of millions of children and low-income adults. Over the course of a typical year, about one in four people in the United States participates in at least one of these programs.

USDA food and nutrition assistance programs are designed to increase food security and support the nutrition and health of low-income families, school-aged children, and other populations. These programs support the direct purchase and distribution of U.S. commodities, the subsidization or reimbursement of the cost of meals provided, and the provision of benefits redeemed at food retailers for groceries. This support stimulates national spending and generates farm sector and other jobs in both rural and urban areas (Canning & Stacy, 2019; Pender et al., 2019; Vogel et al., 2021). Through these direct and indirect effects, these programs support households, U.S. agriculture, the food industry, and the economy at large.

We used preliminary data (subject to change as the data become final)¹ from USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to examine trends in USDA's largest food and nutrition assistance programs through fiscal year (FY) 2024 (October 1, 2023–September 30, 2024), including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); the National School Lunch Program (NSLP); the School Breakfast Program (SBP); the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP); and Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT).² We compared spending amounts in FY 2024 to previous years using either nominal dollar values (generally when considering a shorter timespan) or inflation-adjusted dollar values (generally when considering a longer timespan). Inflation adjustments to 2024 dollar values were made using the Personal Consumption Expenditures price index from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. FY 2024 and FY 2023 data for USDA, FNS programs were from the September 2024 Program Information Report (Keydata) released by USDA, FNS in December 2024. Data for prior FYs were from historical program data released by USDA, FNS in December 2024. Data on the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program were not available as of April 2025, when this report was finalized. We also used supplementary data to examine various program measures and economic and social indicators.

This report provides an overview of USDA food and nutrition assistance programs, documents program policy changes during fiscal year 2024, and examines trends in economic and social indicators that affect program participation and spending. It also summarizes recent research from USDA, Economic Research Service (ERS) relevant to these programs.

¹ Because preliminary data are sometimes revised, program participation and spending numbers reported for a given year in a previous report in this series may differ from the numbers reported for the same year in this report.

² Other programs not discussed in this report include the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program; Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program; Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program; Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program; Special Milk Program; Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations; Commodity Supplemental Food Program; The Emergency Food Assistance Program; and USDA Foods in Schools.

Glossary

Food and nutrition assistance program names:

- **CACFP:** Child and Adult Care Food Program
- **NSLP:** National School Lunch Program
- **P-EBT:** Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer
- **SBP:** School Breakfast Program
- **SFSP:** Summer Food Service Program
- **SNAP:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- **Summer EBT:** Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program
- **SUN Bucks:** Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program
- **SUN Meals:** Summer Food Service Program
- **WIC:** Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children

Other terms:

- **ABAWD(s):** Able-bodied adult(s) without dependents
- **Census Bureau:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
- **CEP:** Community Eligibility Provision
- **COVID-19:** Coronavirus disease
- **CPI:** Consumer Price Index
- **CVV:** Cash-Value Voucher
- **EBT:** Electronic Benefit Transfer
- **ERS:** Economic Research Service
- **FNS:** Food and Nutrition Service
- **FY(s):** Fiscal year(s)
- **ITO:** Indian Tribal Organization
- **SPM:** Supplemental Poverty Measure
- **USDA:** United States Department of Agriculture

USDA Food and Nutrition Assistance Policy Changes in FYs 2020–24

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic public health emergency began midway through fiscal year (FY) 2020 (October 1, 2019–September 30, 2020). In response to the public health and economic impacts of the pandemic, the Federal Government passed legislation and implemented several policy changes in FYs 2020–23, allowing USDA to temporarily address need and program disruptions. We provide an overview of these changes here. For further details on policy developments during these years, see previous editions of The Food and Nutrition Assistance Landscape annual report series (Toossi et al., 2021; Jones et al., 2022; Toossi & Jones, 2023; Jones & Toossi, 2024).

Broadly, these changes included:

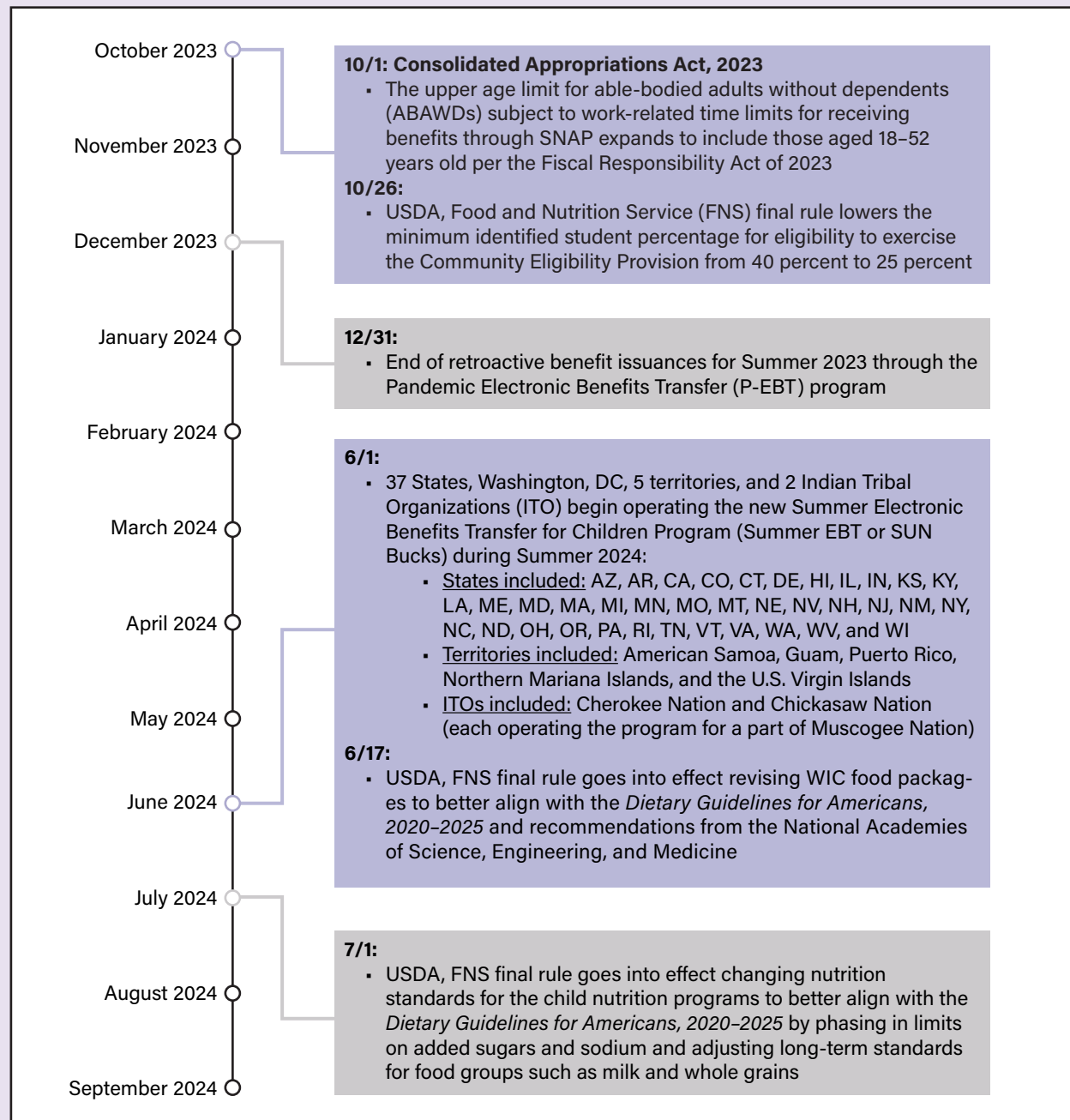
- Increases in benefits issued through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC);
- Greater administrative flexibilities in the operation of programs;
- Waivers that allowed schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) to serve free meals to all students;
- Higher Federal reimbursements for meals served through NSLP, SBP, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP);
- Expanded scope and coverage of existing programs, such as the Summer Food Service Program; and
- The authorization of two temporary programs, including the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program, which reimbursed eligible families for missed school meals due to COVID-19-related school closures, and the Farmers to Families Food Box Program, which purchased and distributed agricultural products to those in need.

Most of these temporary responses expired by the end of FY 2023, during which the public health emergency declaration expired. Certain policy changes during these years not directly related to the pandemic, including the increased SNAP maximum benefit levels resulting from the 2021 Thrifty Food Plan reevaluation and WIC Cash-Value Voucher increase authorized by legislation, continued into FY 2024. Minor retroactive P-EBT issuance also continued into the first months of FY 2024. Overall, FY 2024 marked the first full year since most COVID-19 pandemic-related temporary program changes ended. However, new program developments also continued in FY 2024.

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USDA Food and Nutrition Assistance Policy Changes in FYs 2020–24

Timeline of Federal food assistance policy changes, fiscal year 2024



SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. WIC = Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

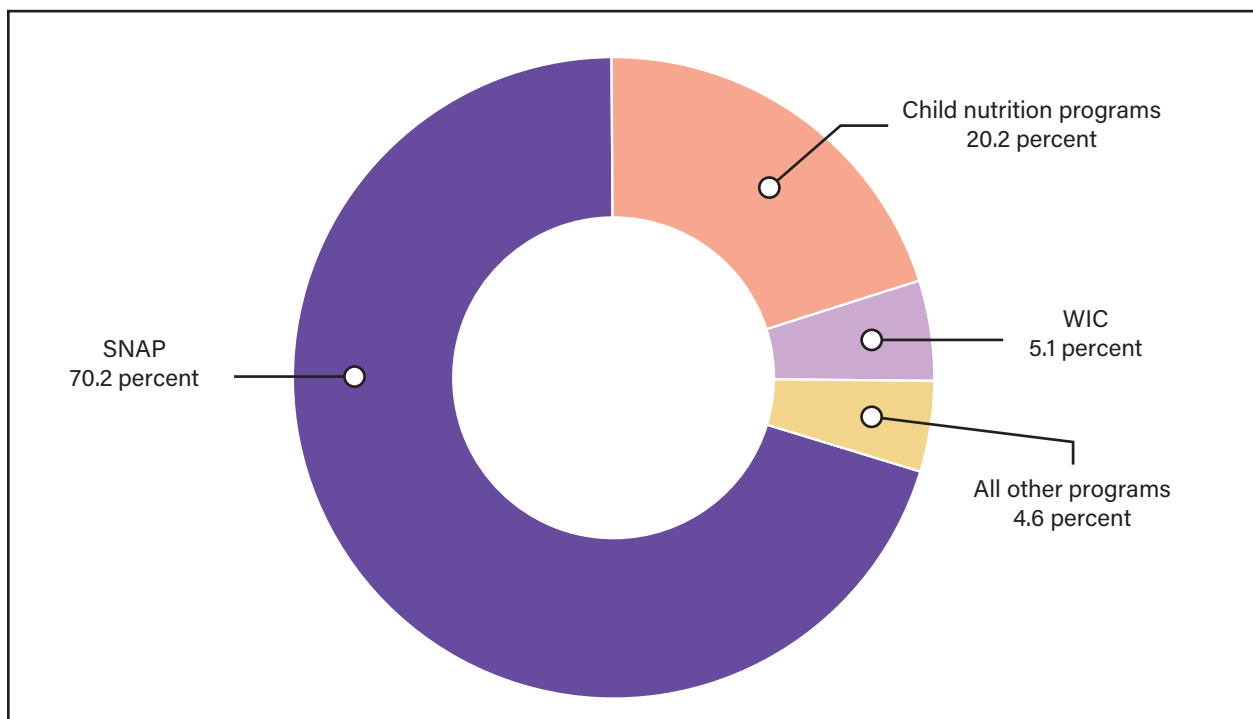
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using USDA, Food and Nutrition Service information.

Total Food and Nutrition Assistance Spending

Spending Fell for a Third Fiscal Year

In FY 2024, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) were six of the largest USDA nutrition assistance programs by cost. Together, these six programs accounted for about 95 percent of total USDA spending on domestic food and nutrition assistance (excluding spending on the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program (Summer EBT or SUN Bucks)) (figure 1). SNAP accounted for about 70 percent, the four largest child nutrition programs together accounted for about 20 percent, and WIC accounted for about 5 percent.

Figure 1
USDA food and nutrition assistance spending by program, fiscal year 2024
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; related State administrative expenses; and other related child nutrition costs. All other programs = Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer; nutrition family assistance grants to Puerto Rico, the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa; Commodity Supplemental Food Program; the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations; the Nutrition Services Incentive Program; the Special Milk Program; Disaster Feeding; The Emergency Food Assistance Program; and nutrition programs administration.

Note: The figure is based on preliminary data from the September 2024 Program Information Report (Keydata) released by USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in December 2024. The calculation of spending shares excludes spending on the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (also known as Summer EBT or SUN Bucks) Program, for which data were not available as of April 2025.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using USDA, FNS data.

Excluding spending on Summer EBT, Federal spending for USDA's domestic food and nutrition assistance programs totaled \$142.2 billion in FY 2024. Nominal spending in FY 2024, excluding Summer EBT, was 16 percent lower than the \$168.3 billion in FY 2023 (table 1).³ The decline in spending was primarily driven by reductions in SNAP and P-EBT spending of \$13.3 billion and \$13.4 billion, respectively.

Table 1

USDA food and nutrition assistance at a glance, fiscal years (FY) 2023 and 2024

Program		FY 2023	FY 2024	Percent change
SNAP	Average monthly participation (millions)	42.2	41.7	-1.1
	Participation rate (percent)	12.5	12.3	-2.1
	Average benefit per person (dollars per month)	211.45	187.20	-11.5
	Total spending (billion dollars)	113.1	99.8	-11.7
WIC	Average monthly participation (millions)	6.58	6.70	1.9
	Women	1.49	1.51	1.7
	Infants	1.47	1.49	1.1
	Children	3.62	3.70	2.3
	Food cost per person (dollars per month)	56.06	60.88	8.6
	Total spending (billion dollars)	6.7	7.2	7.1
NSLP, SBP, CACFP, and SFSP	Total meals served (billions)	8.9	9.3	4.1
	Total spending (billion dollars)	27.0	28.2	4.3
P-EBT	Total spending (billion dollars)	13.8	0.4	-97.4
Other programs	Total spending (billion dollars)	7.8	6.7	-14.0
All programs	Total spending (billion dollars)	168.3	142.2	-15.5

SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. WIC = Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. NSLP = National School Lunch Program. SBP = School Breakfast Program. CACFP = Child and Adult Care Food Program. SFSP = Summer Food Service Program. P-EBT = Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer.

Note: The FY 2024 information is based on preliminary data from the September 2024 Program Information Report (Keydata) released by USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in December 2024. Dollar values are in nominal terms (i.e., not inflation-adjusted). Total spending in the last row includes the cost of programs not shown in the table. Percent changes were calculated using unrounded values (not shown). The SNAP participation rate was calculated as average monthly participation divided by estimated U.S. resident population in July. The average SNAP benefit per person was calculated as total annual benefits divided by average monthly participation, divided by 12. The WIC food cost per person was calculated the same way. Total spending on other programs and total spending on all programs in FY 2024 exclude spending on the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (also known as Summer EBT or SUN Bucks) Program, for which data were not available as of April 2025; if Summer EBT were included in these categories, FY 2024 spending totals would be higher, and the percent change in spending from FY 2023 to 2024 would be lower than reported here.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using USDA, FNS data and U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census population data.

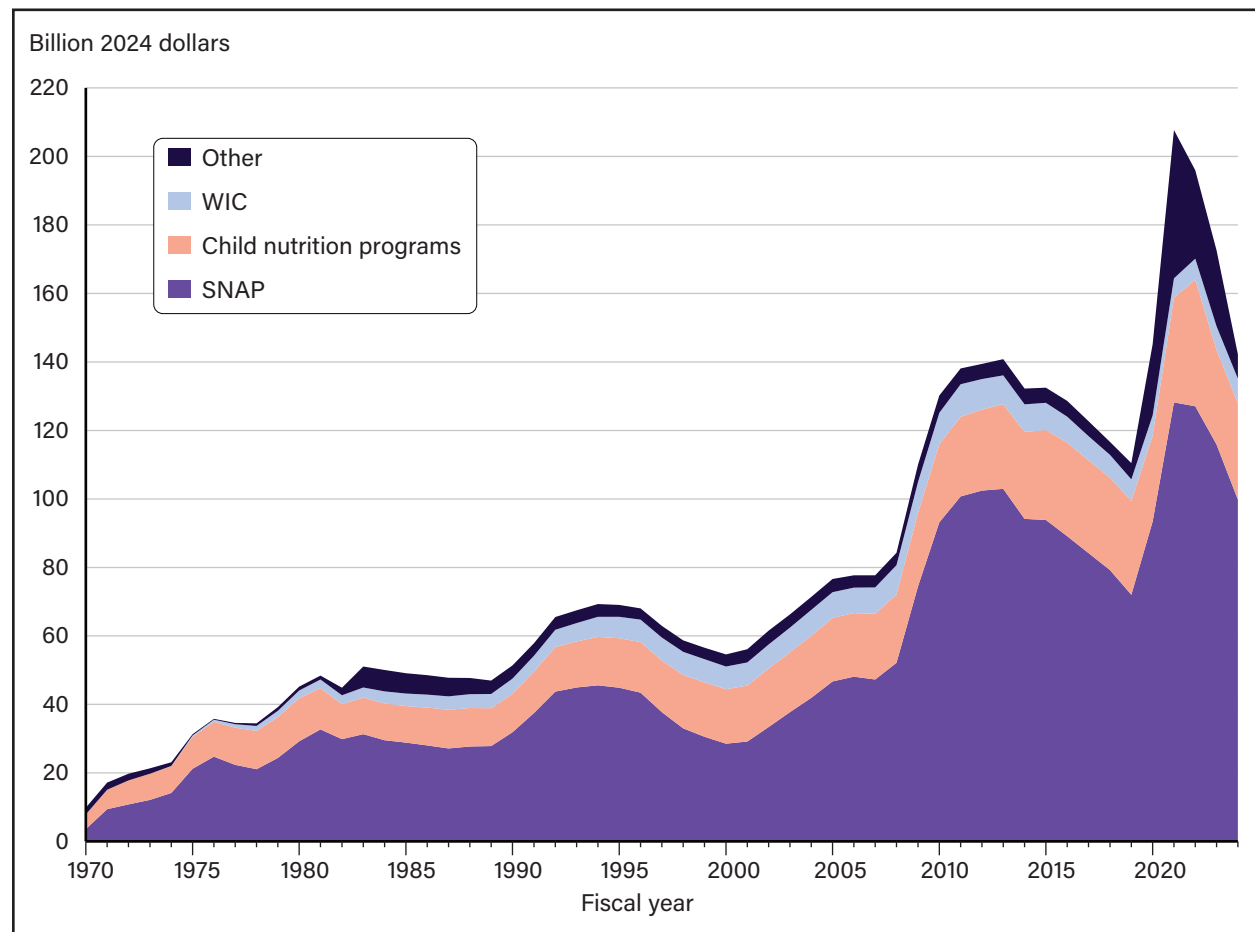
Adjusted for inflation, total spending in FY 2024 was down 18 percent from a total of \$172.1 billion in FY 2023 and down 32 percent from a peak of \$207.1 billion in FY 2021 (figure 2). FY 2024 spending was 29 percent higher than inflation-adjusted spending in FY 2019, the last full fiscal year before the pandemic, and 1 percent higher than in FY 2013, the prepandemic high following the Great Recession of 2007–09.

³ If Summer EBT were included, total spending in FY 2024 would be higher and the percent change in spending from FY 2023 would be lower.

Figure 2

Inflation-adjusted USDA spending on food and nutrition assistance, fiscal years (FY) 1970–2024

Spending continued to fall in FY 2024, driven by reductions in SNAP and P-EBT spending



SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Child nutrition programs = National School Lunch Program; School Breakfast Program; Special Milk Program; related commodity costs; Child and Adult Care Food Program; and Summer Food Service Program. WIC = Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. Other = All other program and administrative spending, including Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) in FYs 2020–24 and the Farmers to Families Food Box Program in FYs 2020–21.

Note: The figure is based on preliminary data from the September 2024 Program Information Report (Keydata) released by USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in December 2024. Spending was adjusted for inflation to 2024 dollars using the Personal Consumption Expenditures price index, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. The figure excludes spending on the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (also known as Summer EBT or SUN Bucks) Program in FY 2024, for which data were not available as of April 2025.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using USDA, FNS data and USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service data.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Spending Fell at Record Rate

SNAP is USDA's largest food and nutrition assistance program and accounted for 70.2 percent of USDA food and nutrition assistance spending in FY 2024 (figure 1). Unlike other programs that target specific groups, SNAP is available to all households that meet the program's income and asset criteria, subject to certain work

and immigration status requirements. Participating households receive monthly benefits that can be used to purchase food items at authorized retailers via electronic benefit transfer (EBT). Benefits increase with household size, decrease with household income, and cannot be spent on tobacco, alcohol, or nonfood items. With some exceptions, benefits cannot be spent on foods sold hot.

Several temporary changes were made to SNAP in FYs 2020–23 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including benefit increases, exemptions from some normal program requirements, and other administrative flexibilities. Other changes during this period, like revisions to the maximum benefit amount, were not directly related to the pandemic (for more information, see box “USDA Food and Nutrition Assistance Policy Changes in FYs 2020–24”). Key temporary provisions included:

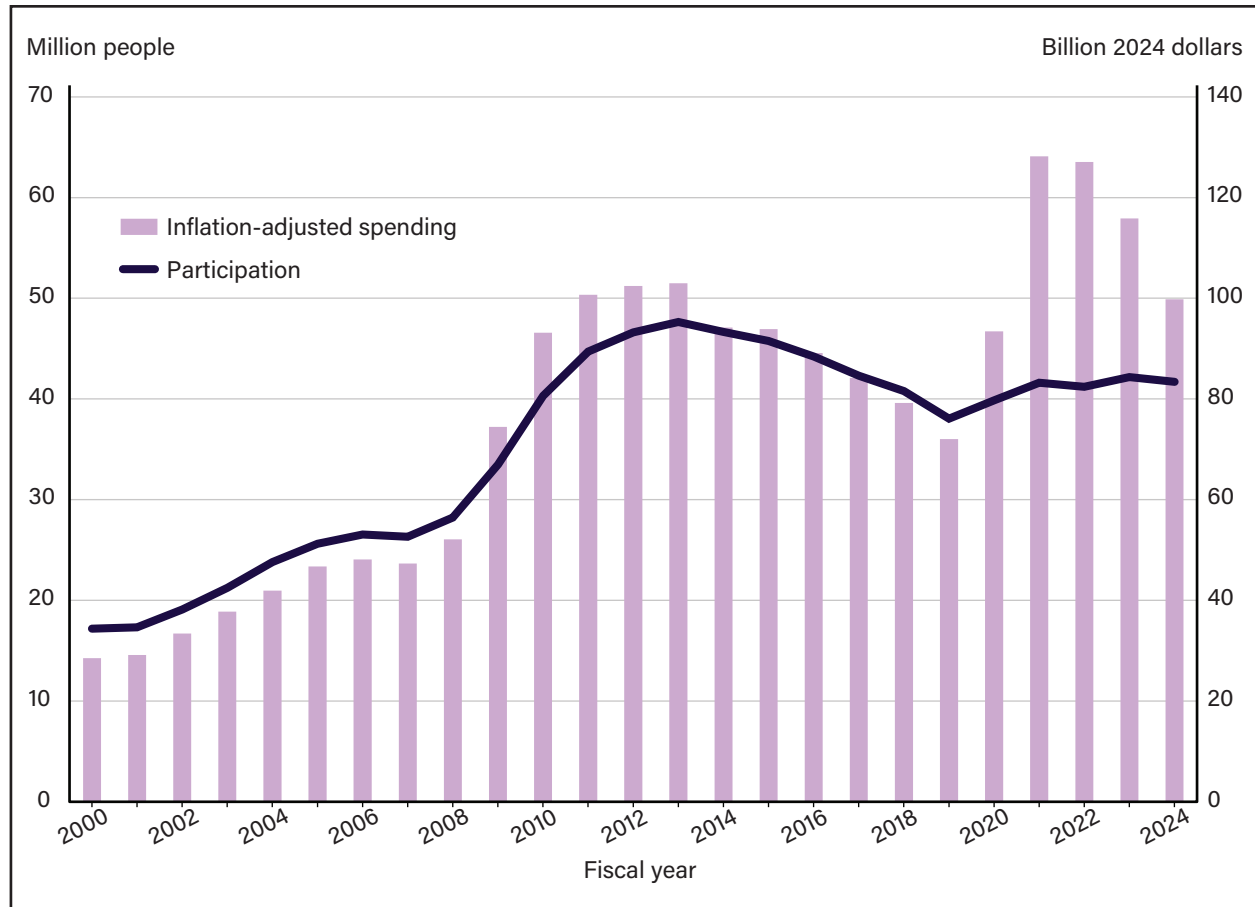
- The issuance of emergency allotments, which were disaster supplements that increased households’ total monthly SNAP benefit to the maximum benefit allowed for their household size, or, beginning in April 2021, by a minimum of \$95. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 mandated the end of emergency allotments nationwide (in States where issuance had not already stopped) after the February 2023 benefit issuance.
- The suspension of certain work-related time limits. Able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) are typically subject to a time limit restricting SNAP benefit receipt to any 3 months out of a 3-year period if they do not work, volunteer, or participate in a work program for 80 hours per month. This time limit was suspended nationwide in most circumstances with the public health emergency declaration and reinstated in July 2023 following the end of the declaration.

FY 2024 was the first year in which adults aged 18–52 were subject to the ABAWD work requirements. During most of FY 2023 and previous years, these requirements applied to adults aged 18–49. The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 incrementally modified these work requirements to apply to adults aged 18–50 in September 2023, 18–52 in FY 2024, and 18–54 during FYs 2025–30. It also exempted certain groups of adults and modified how States can use discretionary exemptions from the requirements. FY 2024 was the first full fiscal year of postpandemic program operation in which no States issued emergency allotments, the modified ABAWD time limit became binding on many recipients, and other pandemic-related flexibilities had expired.

Figure 3

SNAP average monthly participation and inflation-adjusted annual program spending, fiscal years 2000–24

Inflation-adjusted spending fell more from fiscal year 2023 to 2024 than any year on record



SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Note: The figure is based on preliminary data from the September 2024 Program Information Report (Keydata) released by USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in December 2024. Spending was adjusted for inflation to 2024 dollars using the Personal Consumption Expenditures price index, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. FY 2019 average monthly participation excludes January and February 2019 counts, which were affected by a partial Federal Government shutdown.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using USDA, FNS data.

Overall, SNAP spending fell significantly from FY 2023 to FY 2024. In FY 2024, Federal spending on SNAP totaled \$99.8 billion, a 12-percent decrease from the previous fiscal year (table 1).

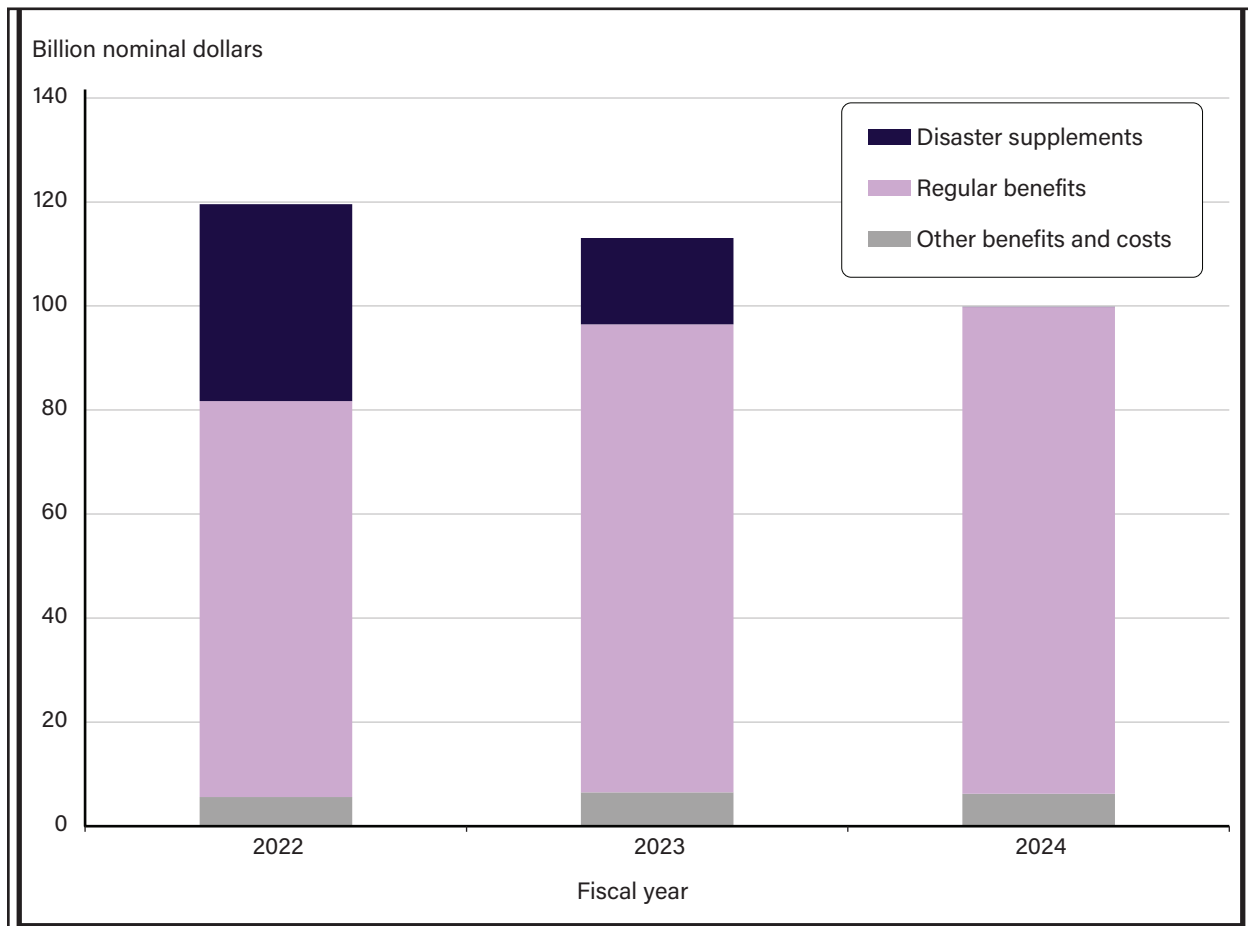
- Inflation-adjusted spending in FY 2024 fell by 14 percent from \$115.9 billion in FY 2023 (figure 3). This annual decline was larger than for any other fiscal year on record. The second largest decline of 13 percent occurred from FY 1996 to FY 1997, following program changes enacted through the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) (figure 2).
- The nationwide expiration of SNAP emergency allotments in FY 2023 played a primary role in the decline in spending. Spending on disaster supplements to ongoing SNAP recipients (almost all of which were emergency allotments during FYs 2020–23) fell from \$37.9 billion in FY 2022 to \$16.6 billion in FY 2023, and to \$11.0 billion in FY 2024 (figure 4). As a share of total spending on SNAP, disaster supplements fell from 32 percent in FY 2022 to 15 percent in FY 2023 and just 0.01 percent in FY 2024.

- Inflation-adjusted spending was 22 percent lower than the peak of \$127.1 billion in FY 2021 and 3 percent lower than the prepandemic peak of \$103.0 billion in FY 2013 following the Great Recession of 2007–09.
- Of the total \$99.8 billion in Federal SNAP spending in FY 2024, \$93.7 billion funded benefits and \$6.1 billion funded the Federal share of administrative costs and other expenses.
- SNAP benefits averaged \$187.20 per month per person, an 11-percent decrease from FY 2023 (table 1).

Figure 4

SNAP spending on regular benefits, disaster supplements, and other benefits and costs, fiscal years 2022–2024

The decline in SNAP spending from fiscal year 2022 to 2024 was driven by the 2023 expiration of emergency allotments



SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Note: The figure is based on preliminary data from the September 2024 Program Information Report (Keydata) released by USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in December 2024. Dollar values are in nominal terms (i.e., not inflation-adjusted). Disaster supplements include only those issued to ongoing recipients. Emergency allotments made up almost all the disaster supplements issued to ongoing SNAP recipient households during fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Other benefits and costs include benefits to new disaster SNAP recipients, replacement benefits, other minor benefits, State administrative expenses, nutrition education, SNAP employment and training administrative costs, and other minor costs.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using USDA, FNS data.

FY 2024 SNAP participation averaged 41.7 million people per month, 1 percent lower than the previous fiscal year (figure 3).

- Participation remained above prepandemic levels and was 10 percent higher than in FY 2019 but 12 percent below its peak in FY 2013.
- About 12.3 percent of the U.S. resident population participated in SNAP in an average month, down from 12.5 percent in FY 2023 (table 1).

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Participation Increased for a Third Consecutive Year

WIC helps safeguard the health of low-income pregnant and postpartum women, as well as infants and children up to 5 years of age, who are at nutritional risk. It provides supplemental food packages, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and healthcare referrals at no cost to participants. WIC's prescribed food packages are tailored to each participant's life stage and nutritional needs. Participants receive an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card to purchase prescribed foods at authorized retailers. To be eligible, applicants must meet categorical, residential, income, and nutrition risk criteria. A person who participates or who has certain family members participating in other benefit programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, may automatically meet income eligibility requirements for WIC.

Several changes were made to WIC in FYs 2020–23. Some of these changes were made temporarily in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, while others were not. These changes included modifications to the certification process, benefit issuances, food packages, and administrative rules, as well as various program modernization efforts (for more information, see box, “USDA Food and Nutrition Assistance Policy Changes in FYs 2020–24”). Key program developments in FY 2024 included revisions to all the food packages:

- WIC recipients receive a monthly Cash-Value Voucher (CVV) that is redeemable for fruit and vegetable purchases. In FYs 2021–23, WIC State agencies were allowed by various legislation to issue larger CVV amounts to recipients. The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act extended the CVV increase to FY 2024, adjusting the amounts to \$26 per month for children, \$47 for pregnant and postpartum women, and \$52 for breastfeeding women. These amounts were increased from \$25, \$44, and \$49, respectively, in FY 2023.
- USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published a final rule revising WIC food packages to align with the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020–2025* and to reflect recommendations from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. The rule also revised CVV amounts permanently going forward and provided for annual adjustments of these benefits for inflation.

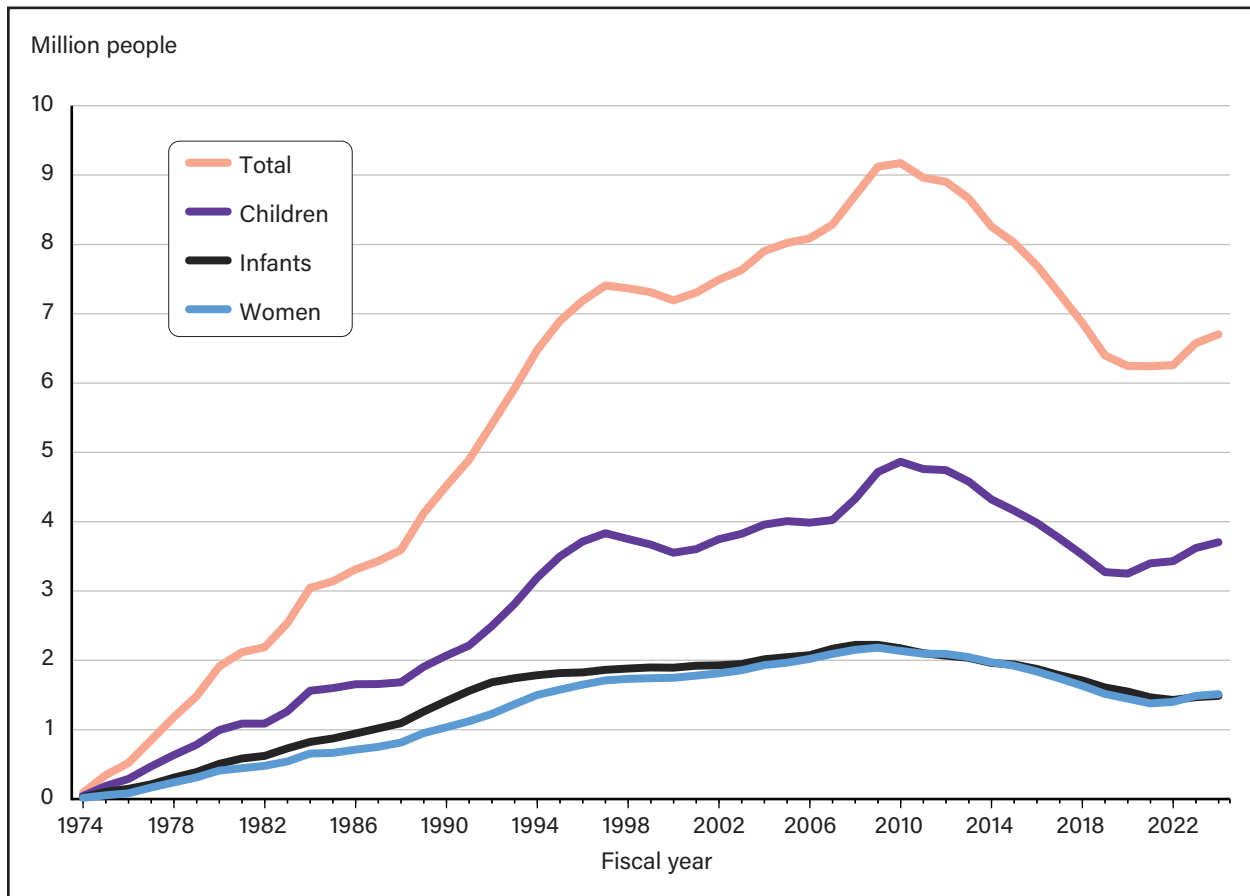
WIC participation averaged 6.7 million people per month in FY 2024, 2 percent higher than the previous fiscal year. This increase was driven by greater participation across all participant groups (figure 5).

- The number of women participating in WIC increased by 2 percent, the third consecutive year of increasing participation among women. FY 2024 also marked the second consecutive year of increasing participation among infants and the fourth consecutive year of increasing participation among children. The number of infants participating in WIC increased by 1 percent from the previous fiscal year while the number of children increased by 2 percent.
- Children aged 1–4 years made up 55.3 percent of all participants, while infants and women accounted for 22.2 percent and 22.6 percent, respectively.

Figure 5

WIC average monthly participation by group, fiscal years 1974–2024

Participation continued to rise for women, infants, and children in fiscal year 2024



WIC = Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

Note: The figure is based on preliminary data from the September 2024 Program Information Report (Keydata) released by USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in December 2024.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using USDA, FNS data.

Federal spending on WIC increased in FY 2024 relative to FY 2023, driven by higher participation and food costs (including the increased CVV amounts).

- In FY 2024, Federal spending on WIC totaled \$7.2 billion, 7 percent more than the previous fiscal year (table 1) but 25 percent lower than the inflation-adjusted historical high of \$9.6 billion set in FY 2011 following the Great Recession (figure 2).
- Food costs per person averaged \$60.88 per month, an increase of \$4.82 (9 percent) from the previous fiscal year (table 1). After adjusting for inflation, average per-person food costs were at their highest level since FY 2012.

Child Nutrition Programs

Meals Served and Spending Increased Across Programs

USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) operates seven child nutrition programs, the three largest by spending being the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Two programs focus on providing food during the summer months: the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP, also known as SUN Meals) and the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program (also known as Summer EBT or SUN Bucks).

Collectively, 9.3 billion meals were served through the NSLP, SBP, CACFP, and SFSP in FY 2024 (figure 6).

- This was 4 percent more than in FY 2023 but 5 percent fewer than in FY 2022, when an all-time high of 9.8 billion meals were served.
- 3 percent fewer meals were served than in FY 2019, the last full fiscal year of prepandemic operations, in which 9.5 billion meals were served.

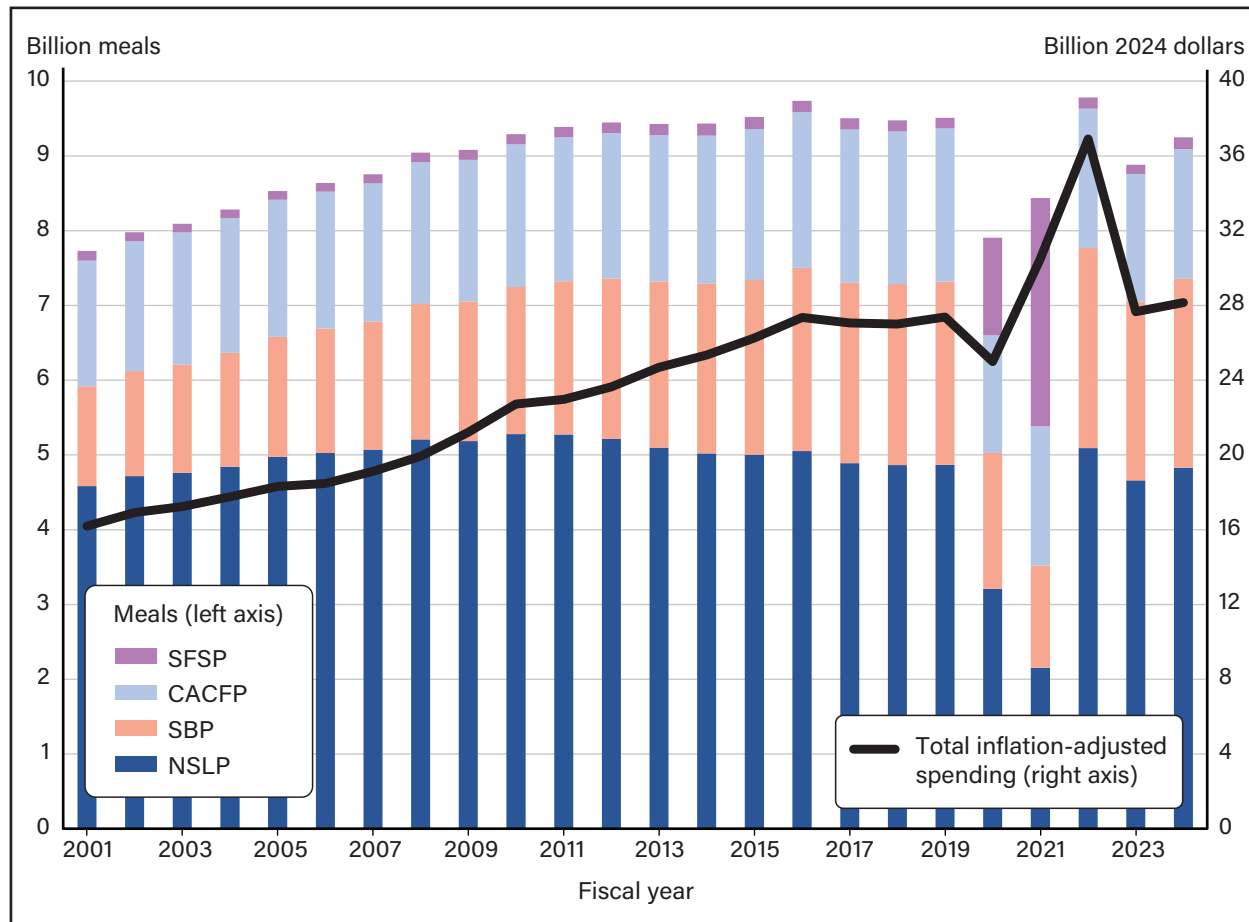
These meals were served at a combined cost of \$28.2 billion (figure 6).

- Spending on these four programs grew by 4 percent from a total of \$27.0 billion in FY 2023 (table 1).
- Adjusted for inflation to 2024 dollars, spending in FY 2024 was 2 percent higher than in FY 2023, 24 percent lower than the historic high of \$36.9 billion in FY 2022, and 3 percent higher than in FY 2019 (figure 6).

Figure 6

Total meals served and total inflation-adjusted spending across NSLP, SBP, CACFP, and SFSP, fiscal years 2001-24

Total meals served and spending rose in fiscal year 2024



NSLP = National School Lunch Program. SBP = School Breakfast Program. CACFP = Child and Adult Care Food Program. SFSP = Summer Food Service Program.

Note: The figure is based on preliminary data from the September 2024 Program Information Report (Keydata) released by USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in December 2024. Combined spending on NSLP, SBP, CACFP, and SFSP was adjusted for inflation to 2024 dollars using the Personal Consumption Expenditures price index, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. Data on spending on the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (also known as Summer EBT or SUN Bucks) Program in FY 2024 were not available as of April 2025.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using USDA, FNS data.

School Meal Programs

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) provides nutritious lunches at low or no cost to children at school and snacks to children participating in afterschool care programs. Schools that participate in NSLP receive Federal subsidies for reimbursable meals served and some commodities (or cash in lieu of commodities) from USDA. In return, schools must serve lunches that meet Federal nutrition requirements and offer free or reduced-price meals to qualifying students. All students at participating schools may participate in the school lunch program. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines are eligible for free meals, and those from families with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty guidelines are eligible for reduced-price meals. Children from families with incomes

over 185 percent of the poverty guidelines pay “full price,” although their meals are still subsidized to a small extent. Certain schools can also opt to provide free meals to all students regardless of their household income through several NSLP provisions. One such provision, the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), allows an individual school, groups of schools, or school districts to provide school meals at no charge to all students if at least 25 percent (40 percent prior to October 26, 2023) of students are directly certified or categorically eligible for a free lunch through participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or other specific means-tested programs. The Federal reimbursement at CEP schools is based on the percentage of directly certified students.

The School Breakfast Program (SBP) provides nutritious breakfasts to students in participating schools. Similar to NSLP, schools that participate in SBP receive Federal subsidies for reimbursable meals served and some commodities (or cash in lieu of commodities) from USDA. Children can receive either free, reduced-price, or full price breakfasts according to the same family income eligibility requirements for meals served through NSLP.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the normal provision of school meals through NSLP and SBP, particularly due to school closures and supply chain disruptions. In response to these disruptions, Congress authorized USDA to implement temporary changes to program administration (for more information, see box, “USDA Food and Nutrition Assistance Policy Changes in FYs 2020–24”). These flexibilities, which expired before FY 2024, included:

- Allowing schools participating in NSLP and SBP to serve free meals to all students during the 2020–21 and 2021–22 school years regardless of their regular eligibility for free meals;
- Higher Federal reimbursements for meals served through the end of the 2022–23 school year; and
- The temporary operation of the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Program through the end of the 2022–23 school year to reimburse eligible families for missed school meals due to COVID-19-related school closures.

Administration of NSLP and SBP had largely returned to prepandemic operations by FY 2023. However, policy changes continued in FY 2024:

- In FY 2023 and prior years, schools could provide free lunches to all students through the CEP if they met a threshold of 40 percent or more of students being directly certified for free lunches. USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published a rule lowering this threshold to 25 percent, effective October 2023.
- A USDA, FNS final rule went into effect updating nutrition standards for NSLP and SBP to better align with the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020–2025*. The rule specified a gradual reduction in added sugars over time, a modest reduction in sodium levels, and adjusted standards for other food groups such as milk and whole grains.

The number of meals served through NSLP and SBP increased in FY 2024.

- NSLP meals served totaled 4.8 billion in FY 2024, 4 percent more than the 4.7 billion in FY 2023 (figure 6).
- SBP meals served totaled 2.5 billion in FY 2024, 6 percent more than the 2.4 billion in FY 2023 (figure 6).

Federal spending on NSLP and SBP also increased in FY 2024.

- Federal NSLP spending amounted to \$17.7 billion in FY 2024, 2 percent higher than the \$17.3 billion spent in FY 2023.
- Federal SBP spending amounted to \$5.7 billion in FY 2024, 8 percent higher than the \$5.3 billion spent in FY 2023.
- Combined inflation-adjusted spending on both programs in FY 2024 was 27 percent lower than its peak in FY 2022 (\$32.1 billion), primarily due to fewer meals served as well as lower Federal reimbursements for meals served.

Child and Adult Care Food Program

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) subsidizes healthy meals and snacks in participating childcare centers, daycare homes, and adult daycare facilities. CACFP also reimburses meals served to children participating in afterschool care programs or residing in emergency shelters. The program primarily serves children but also serves adults with disabilities or those over the age of 60 in adult daycare facilities. All participating providers must be licensed or approved according to Federal, State, or local standards. Care providers are reimbursed for each type of qualifying meal they serve (breakfast, lunch, dinner, or snack). In addition to cash reimbursements, USDA makes donated foods, or cash in lieu of donated foods, available to institutions participating in CACFP.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, CACFP meal providers were allowed to receive higher Federal reimbursements for meals served through the program by various legislation and USDA waivers through FY 2023. They were also allowed temporary program and administrative flexibilities to address disruptions to normal meal provision.

In FY 2024, CACFP nutrition standards were updated to align with the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020–2025* via a USDA, FNS rule. As with meals served through NSLP and SBP, the rule specified a gradual phase-in of limits on added sugars (instead of on total sugars) for CACFP foods.

The number of meals served through CACFP increased in FY 2024.

- CACFP meals served totaled 1.73 billion in FY 2024, 2 percent more than the 1.71 billion served in FY 2023 (figure 6).
- Childcare centers accounted for 76.9 percent of all meals served, family daycare homes accounted for 18.9 percent, and adult daycare centers accounted for 4.2 percent in FY 2024.

Federal spending on CACFP also increased in FY 2024.

- Federal CACFP spending amounted to \$4.1 billion in FY 2024, 5 percent higher than the \$3.9 billion spent in FY 2023.

Summer Meal Programs

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP, also known as SUN Meals⁴) provides free meals to children in low-income areas during the summer months when most schools are closed for instruction and during unanticipated school closures outside the summer months.⁵ SFSP meals are typically provided in congregate settings via eligible organizations, including those sponsored by school food authorities, local government agencies, private nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, and universities operating federally funded sports camps.⁶ Organizations provide meals through SFSP in areas or sites where at least 50 percent of children qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. SFSP meals are reimbursed at a higher rate than NSLP and SBP meals.

SFSP played a larger role during the COVID-19 pandemic among USDA's child nutrition programs than it does in most years. Normal meal provisions through NSLP, SBP, and CACFP were disrupted—particularly in FYs 2020–21—by the widespread closure of schools and childcare centers. These organizations were able to expand free meal provisions through the SFSP, and administrative flexibilities temporarily allowed the provision of “grab and go” meals outside of typical congregate settings regardless of regular eligibility. USDA waivers also allowed schools to receive the higher SFSP reimbursement rate for school meals served during school year 2021–22.

SFSP participation, meals served, and spending increased in FY 2024.

- Participation in SFSP was 2.8 million in July 2024 (the month when participation in the program typically peaks). Organizations served 159.2 million meals through SFSP in FY 2024 at a cost of \$677.1 million (figure 6).
- These levels were higher compared to FY 2023. July SFSP participation, meals served, and program spending increased by 26 percent, 27 percent, and 31 percent, respectively, from the previous fiscal year.
- SFSP meals served and overall participation in FY 2024 were somewhat higher than levels before the pandemic. July participation and meals served in FY 2024 were 4 percent and 12 percent higher, respectively, than in FY 2019, the last full fiscal year before temporary program changes were implemented in response to pandemic disruptions.

FY 2024 was the first year of operation for the new permanent Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program, also referred to as Summer EBT or SUN Bucks.⁷ Summer EBT issued benefits to eligible households with school-aged children for the summer months, when school meals through NSLP and SBP are not typically available. These benefits are redeemable for groceries much like SNAP benefits. Summer EBT fulfills a similar function as the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program, which expired in FY 2023 (see box, “The End of P-EBT and the Beginning of Summer EBT”). Data on program participation and spending were not available as of April 2025.

⁴ USDA, FNS introduced the “SUN Meals” (or SuN Meals in some contexts, short for Summer Nutrition Meals) branding in FY 2024 as part of the rollout of the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program, which is itself branded as “SUN Bucks” in some contexts.

⁵ Schools operating on a continuous-year calendar may serve meals through SFSP when school is out of session for 15 days or more.

⁶ Non-congregate meal service in certain rural areas was permanently authorized by Congress in FY 2023 through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022; USDA, FNS published corresponding regulations allowing the distribution of non-congregate meals in approved rural areas, which became effective in FY 2024.

⁷ Both Summer EBT and SUN Bucks (or SuN Bucks in some contexts, short for Summer Nutrition Bucks) are used as abbreviations for the full program name.

The End of P-EBT and the Beginning of Summer EBT

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic disrupted in-person learning in schools and interrupted the provision of meals to children through the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. In response, Congress passed legislation in March 2020 authorizing USDA to create the temporary Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program to reimburse eligible households with children for the value of school meals they missed due to pandemic-related disruptions. Benefits were redeemable for the same kinds of foods as SNAP benefits. P-EBT was later expanded to include younger children not yet enrolled in schools, children in all U.S. territories, and to cover the summer months when most schools were closed for instruction. This program expired at the end of FY 2023, and all retroactive benefits were issued by the end of December 2023 (Jones & Toossi, 2024). P-EBT issued about \$71.5 billion in benefits in total over the course of its operation from FYs 2020–24.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, signed into law in December 2022, created a new, permanent program fulfilling a similar function to P-EBT’s issuance of benefits during the summer months: the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program, also known as Summer EBT or SUN Bucks. Through this program, eligible households with school-aged children living in participating States can receive electronic benefits during the summer months that are redeemable for groceries. In FY 2024, benefits were \$120 per child for the summer in most areas. Households with school-aged children are eligible to receive benefits through Summer EBT if they are enrolled in SNAP, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or if their household income is no more than 185 percent of the Federal poverty line. The program began issuing benefits in Summer 2024 across 37 States, Washington, DC, 5 territories, and 2 Indian Tribal Organizations (see box, “USDA Food and Nutrition Assistance Policy Changes in FYs 2020–24”).

Economic and Social Indicators Related to Participation in Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs

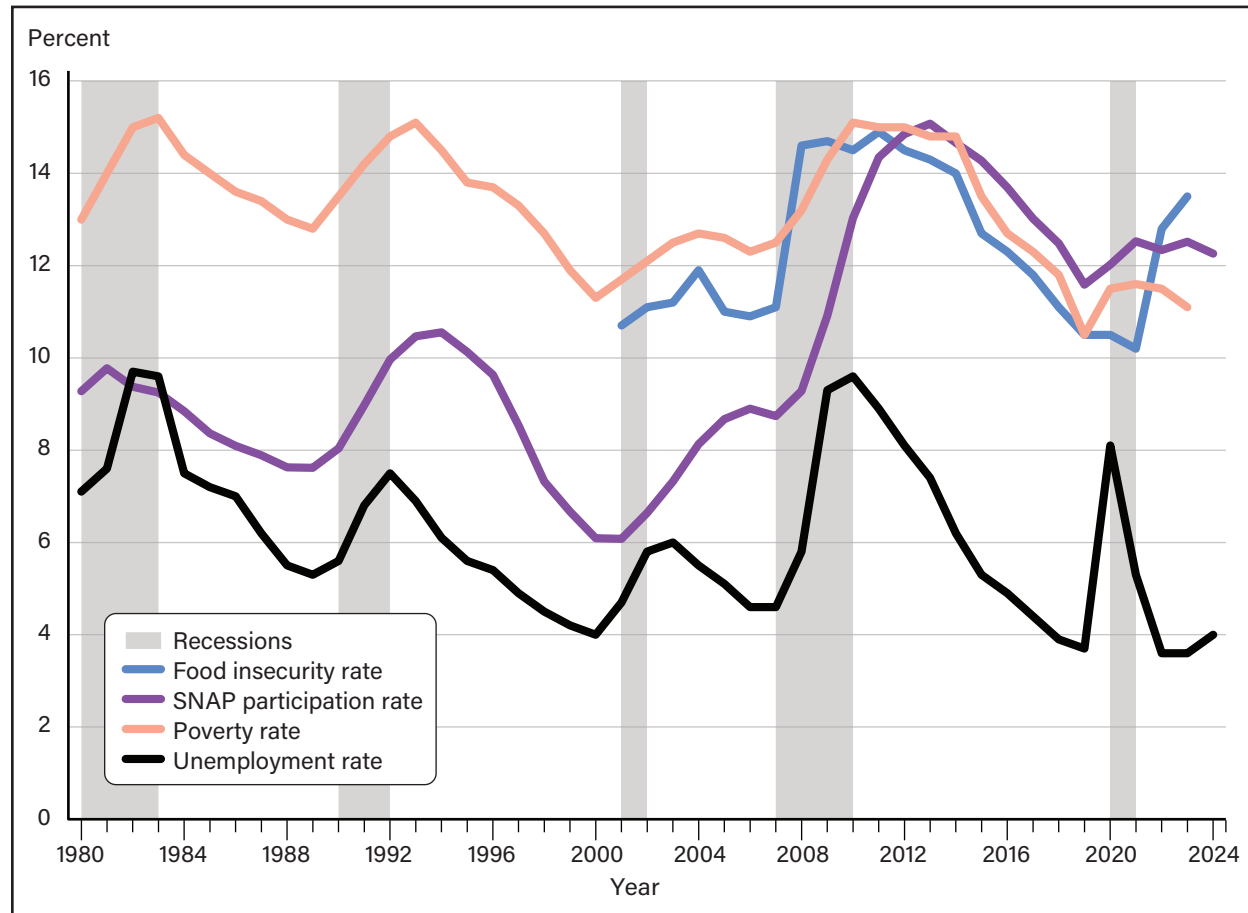
Economic and demographic conditions, among other factors, affect participation in and spending on food and nutrition assistance programs by influencing the sizes of the eligible populations, the rates of participation, and the level of benefits households receive.

Since USDA’s food and nutrition assistance programs are means-tested, the number of people eligible to participate in the programs are linked to the strength of the economy. In particular, SNAP caseloads and benefits are strongly associated with economic conditions. SNAP is one of the United States’ primary countercyclical programs, expanding during economic downturns and contracting during periods of economic growth. The SNAP participation rate generally tracks the unemployment rate and poverty rate, as does the household food insecurity rate (figure 7). However, improved economic conditions during the early stages of a recovery may take longer to be felt by low-wage workers who are more likely to receive SNAP benefits, which can result in a lagged reduction in SNAP participation relative to reductions in unemployment.

Figure 7

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation, unemployment, poverty, and food insecurity rates, 1980–2024

Economic conditions and material hardship influence participation in SNAP



Note: SNAP participation is based on preliminary data from the September 2024 Program Information Report (Keydata) released by USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in December 2024. The SNAP participation rate is calculated as the average level of monthly participation in each fiscal year over the estimated U.S. resident population in July of the corresponding year. Grey vertical bars indicate years when recessions occurred (January–July 1980; July 1981–November 1982; July 1990–March 1991; March–November 2001; December 2007–June 2009; and February–April 2020).

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service (ERS) using USDA, FNS SNAP participation data; USDA, ERS food insecurity data; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics unemployment rate data; and U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census population and poverty rate data.

Changes in economic conditions in recent years were mixed. U.S. labor market statistics in 2024 were similar to those in 2023, though unemployment rose (table 2).

- From 2023 to 2024, the number of employed persons in the United States increased by 0.3 million, and the number of unemployed persons increased by 0.7 million.
- The national unemployment rate increased to 4.0 percent in 2024 from 3.6 percent in 2023.
- The labor force participation rate remained at 62.6 percent in 2024.

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census measures household income and poverty each year. The Census Bureau measures poverty in two ways: (1) the official poverty measure, which is based on household cash resources and (2) the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), which also incorporates noncash resources and certain household expenses. The latest income and poverty data indicate that in 2023:

- The nominal median household income rose to \$80,610. The inflation-adjusted median income in 2022 was \$77,540, meaning real household income increased by 4 percent in 2023 (Guzman & Kollar, 2024).
- There were 36.8 million people, including 11.0 million children, living in households with income below the official poverty line (\$30,000 for a family of four). Overall, the poverty rate of 11.1 percent was lower than the 11.5 percent in 2022 (Shrider, 2024).
- The SPM rate was 12.9 percent, higher than the 12.4 percent in 2022 (Shrider, 2024).

Households in the United States are categorized as food insecure if, at times during the year, they struggled to afford adequate food for one or more household members. Food insecure households are further categorized as having low or very low food security. In the latter, the eating patterns of one or more household members were disrupted and their food intake was reduced at some point during the year. USDA's food and nutrition assistance programs aim to increase food security by providing low-income households with access to food, a healthful diet, and nutrition education.

USDA, ERS monitors household food insecurity in the United States through an annual nationally representative survey conducted in December of each year. As shown in figure 7, the food insecurity rate (the share of households categorized as food insecure) tends to rise and fall in line with the unemployment and poverty rates.

Food insecurity rose overall in 2023 to 13.5 percent from 12.8 percent in 2022 (Rabbitt et al., 2024).

- The rise in food insecurity was driven by an increase in the number of households experiencing low food security as opposed to very low food security (Rabbitt et al., 2024).
- Children were food insecure in 8.9 percent of households with children. This rate was not statistically different from the 8.8 percent in 2022 but was higher than the rate in 2021 (Rabbitt et al., 2024).

Inflation refers to the rate at which the prices of goods increase. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a summary measure of consumer prices and one indicator used to measure inflation. The costs of food and other goods increased in 2024 as they do in most years, but inflation slowed significantly in 2024 relative to recent years:

- The CPI for all items increased by 2.9 percent in 2024. Overall inflation was down from 4.1 percent in 2023 and a high of 8.0 percent in 2022.
- The CPI for food increased by 2.3 percent, which was smaller than the 9.9 percent and 5.8 percent increases in 2022 and 2023, respectively. Inflation for food away from home (i.e., purchased from restaurants and other food service venues) was 4.1 percent in 2024, higher than inflation for food at home (i.e., purchased from grocery stores and other retail venues) of 1.2 percent.

Table 2

Selected economic and demographic indicators, 2020–24

Indicator	2021	2022	2023	2024
Population in July (millions)	332.1	334.0	336.8	340.1
Births (millions)	3.7	3.7	3.6	NA
School enrollment (millions)	55.5	55.2*	54.8*	54.3*
Prekindergarten–grade 8	38.5	38.1	37.8	37.4
Grades 9–12	17.0	17.1	17.1	16.9
Labor force measures				
Employed persons (millions)	152.6	158.3	161.0	161.3
Unemployed persons (millions)	8.6	6.0	6.1	6.8
Unemployment rate (percent)	5.3	3.6	3.6	4
Labor force participation rate (percent)	61.7	62.2	62.6	62.6
Median household income	\$70,784	\$74,580	\$80,610	NA
Official poverty measure				
Persons in poverty (millions)	37.9	37.9	36.8	NA
Poverty rate (percent)	11.6	11.5	11.1	NA
Children in poverty (millions)	11.1	10.8	11.0	NA
Poverty rate for children (percent)	15.3	15.0	15.3	NA
Supplemental poverty measure				
Persons in poverty (millions)	25.6	40.9	42.8	NA
Poverty rate (percent)	7.8	12.4	12.9	NA
Children in poverty (millions)	3.8	9.0	10.0	NA
Poverty rate for children (percent)	5.2	12.4	13.7	NA
Food insecurity among all households (percent)	10.2	12.8	13.5	NA
With low food security	6.4	7.7	8.4	NA
With very low food security	3.8	5.1	5.1	NA
Food insecurity among households with children (percent)	12.5	17.3	17.9	NA
With food-insecure children	6.2	8.8	8.9	NA
With very low food security among children	0.7	1.0	1.0	NA
CPI for all items (annual percent change)	4.7	8.0	4.1	2.9
CPI for food (annual percent change)	3.9	9.9	5.8	2.3
CPI for food at home	3.5	11.4	5.0	1.2
CPI for food away from home	4.5	7.7	7.1	4.1

NA = Data not available. CPI = Consumer Price Index.

Note: The asterisk (*) indicates data are projections. Dollar values are in nominal terms (i.e., not inflation-adjusted).

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service (ERS) using U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census population, poverty, and household income data; National Center for Health Statistics births data; National Center for Education Statistics school enrollment data; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics employment, unemployment, labor force participation, and CPI data; and USDA, ERS food insecurity data.

USDA, Economic Research Service Research Update

USDA, Economic Research Service (ERS) staff conduct economic research on food and nutrition assistance, among other issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America. Recently released USDA, ERS reports and updated data products relevant to domestic food and nutrition assistance include:

- *The National School Lunch Program: Background, Trends, and Issues, 2024 Edition*: Provides an overview of the National School Lunch Program, documents major program changes since the last report in this series was published in 2008, and presents historical trends and participant characteristics. It also summarizes relevant research about the program and discusses longstanding and emergent issues (Toossi et al., 2024).
- *The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Background, Trends, and Economic Issues, 2024 Edition*: Explains how WIC works, documents major program changes since the last report in this series was published in 2015, discusses program trends, and summarizes research findings on key economic outcomes and policy issues. This report also outlines temporary changes to WIC in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the infant formula supply chain disruptions that occurred in 2022 (Hodges et al., 2024).
- *U.S. Agricultural Policy Review, 2023*: Documents developments in U.S. agricultural policies in 2023, with a focus on policies related to agricultural production, agrofood value chains, and food and nutrition assistance (Baldwin et al., 2023).
- *Household Food Security in the United States in 2023*: Examines data from the December 2023 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement and presents estimates of the prevalence of household food insecurity among various populations (Rabbitt et al., 2024).
- *Comparing Food Insecurity Among the U.S. Military and Civilian Adult Populations: The Roles of Age, Food Source, and School Food*: Compares food insecurity among the U.S. active duty military and civilian adult populations (Rabbitt & Beymer, 2024).
- *Household Food Insecurity Across Race and Ethnicity in the United States, 2016–21*: Provides information on food insecurity among different racial and ethnic groups, including American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, and multiracial groups—groups not typically covered in USDA, ERS’s annual household food security report series (Hales & Coleman-Jensen, 2024).
- *Who Shops for Groceries Online?*: Examines the prevalence and frequency of online grocery shopping among SNAP participants and other groups, the methods of receiving groceries purchased online, and the primary motivators prompting U.S. consumers to buy groceries online (Restrepo & Zeballos, 2024).
- *SNAP Policy Database*: Offers a central data source for information on a broad range of State policy options affecting how SNAP is implemented in different States through 2020 (USDA, Economic Research Service, 2024). The *Amber Waves* article “ERS’s Updated SNAP Policy Database Facilitates Research on Program Participation and Outcomes” provides more information on the data product, the recent updates, and the way in which the SNAP Policy Database can facilitate research on the program (O’Connor et al., 2024).

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