



HUNGER & POVERTY

Fast FACTS

December 2023

FY2025-Q1

INCLUDES MOST RECENT DATA AVAILABLE AS OF SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2024

FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY

Source: Food Bank for New York City, Fiscal Year 2024.

- Food Bank For New York City's food distribution program provides nearly **92 million free meals** per year for New Yorkers in need.
- Since 1983, Food Bank For New York City has provided nearly **1.6 billion meals** to New Yorkers in need.
- Food Bank For New York City's income support services, including food stamps (also known as SNAP) and free tax assistance, put nearly **\$87 million** into the pockets of low-income New Yorkers last year.
- Food Bank For New York City's nutrition education programs and services empower nearly **15,000 children and families** to sustain a healthy diet on a limited budget.

FOOD INSECURITY

Sources:
Map the Meals Gap (2022). Feeding America. 2024.

(Note that this data is released two years after it is collected.)

Projected Data are Feeding America initial projections.

Food security means access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life.

US

- **13.5 percent**, or nearly **44.2 million** Americans are food insecure. This is an increase of **5 percent** compared to the prior year's national food insecurity rate of 12.8 percent.

NYS

- **13.4 percent**, or **more than 2.6 million** New York State residents are food insecure. This is an increase of **18 percent** compared to the prior year's food insecurity rate of 11.4 percent.

NYC

- **15.0 percent**, or **nearly 1.3 million** New York City residents are food insecure. This is an increase of **1.5 percentage point** compared to the prior year's food insecurity rate of 13.5 percent.
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AVERAGE COST PER MEAL

Source: Map the Meals Gap (2022). Feeding America. 2024.

(Note that this data is released two years after it is collected.)

US

- The average cost per meal in the United States is **\$3.99**. This is an increase of 23 percent compared to the previous year national average of \$3.25.

NYS

- The average cost per meal in New York State is **\$4.20**. This is an increase of 11 cents when compared to the prior year's New York State average of \$3.78.
- The New York State average cost per meal is 21 cents higher than the national average cost per meal (\$3.99).

NYC

- The average cost per meal in New York City is **\$4.86**. This is an increase of 49 cents compared to the prior year New York City average of \$4.37.
- New York City's average cost per meal is 66 cents higher than New York State's average cost per meal (\$4.20) and 87 cents higher than the national average cost per meal (\$3.99).

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (GROCERIES)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

(Note that this data is released one month after it is collected.)

US

- From August 2023 to August 2024, the cost of groceries increased by nearly **0.9 percent**.
- Since the start of COVID-19 in March 2020, the cost of groceries in the United States has increased by **25 percent**.

New York Metro Statistical Area

- From October 2022 to October 2023, the cost of groceries increased by **1.0 percent**.
- Since the start of COVID-19 in March 2020, the cost of groceries in the New York Metropolitan area has increased by **21 percent**.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Sources:

US: USDA.

NYS: Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA).

NYC: Human Resources Administration (HRA).

(Note that this data is released 3-4 months after it is collected.)

US

- As of June 2024, more than **42 million** (42,027,412) United States residents participate in SNAP. This represents a 0.2 percent increase compared to the participation in June 2023 (41.9 million SNAP participants).
- The total SNAP benefit amount in the United States has decreased by 26 percent, from \$10.4 billion to \$7.7 Billion since February 2023, the month before the SNAP reduction occurred.

NYS

- As of June 2024, nearly **3.0 million** (2,961,711) New York State residents participate in SNAP. This represents a 2.4 percent increase when compared to last year's participation in June 2023.
- The total SNAP benefit amount in New York State has decreased **by 25 percent, from \$863 million to \$644 million since February 2023**, the month before the SNAP reduction occurred.

NYC

- As of June 2024, nearly **1.8 million** (1,789,605) New York City residents participate in SNAP. This represents a 2.8 percent increase compared to the participation in June 2023 (1.7 million SNAP participants).
- The total SNAP benefit amount in New York City has decreased **by 21 percent, from \$526 million to \$414 million since February 2023**, the month before the SNAP reduction occurred.

POVERTY

The federal poverty level is \$21,960 annually for a household of three.

Source: 2022

American Community Survey. U.S. Census Bureau. 2023.

(Note that this data is released one year after it is collected.)

US

- An estimated **12.6 percent**, or nearly **41 million (40,951,625)** United States residents are living below the federal poverty level.

NYS

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- An estimated **14.3 percent**, or more than **2.7 million (2,734,819)** New York State residents are living below the federal poverty level. New York State's poverty rate is **13 percent** above the national poverty rate.

NYC

- An estimated **18.3 percent**, or nearly **1.5 million (1,497,382)** New York City residents are living below the federal poverty level. New York City's poverty rate is **45 percent above** the federal poverty rate, and **28 percent above** the New York State poverty rate.
- New York City residents living in poverty make up 55 percent of all New Yorkers in poverty.

POPULATION

Source: 2022
American Community
Survey, U.S. Census
Bureau. 2023.

US

- More than **331 million (331,449,281)** people are living in the United States.

NYS

- More than **20 million (20,201,249)** people are living in New York State.

NYC

- Nearly **8.8 million (8,804,190)** people are living in New York City.

DISABILITY

Source: 2022
American Community
Survey, U.S. Census
Bureau. 2023.

US

- An estimated **13.4 percent**, or more than **44 million (44,146,764)** U.S. residents are living with a disability.

NYS

- An estimated **12.9 percent**, or more than **2.5 million (2,508,047)** of New York State residents are living with a disability.

NYC

- An estimated **12.7 percent**, or nearly **1.1 million (1,049,494)** New York City residents are living with a disability. This is the equivalent of more than 1 in 10 New York City residents.
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