



HUNGER & POVERTY

Fast FACTS

December 2023

FY2024-Q2

INCLUDES MOST RECENT DATA AVAILABLE AS OF DECEMBER 7TH, 2023

FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY

Source: Food Bank for New York City, Fiscal Year 2023.

- Food Bank For New York City's food distribution program provides nearly **60 million free meals** per year for New Yorkers in need.
- Since 1983, Food Bank For New York City has provided nearly **1.5 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 **\$77 million** into the pockets of low-income New Yorkers last year.
- Food Bank For New York City's nutrition education programs and services empower over **13,000 children and families** to sustain a healthy diet on a limited budget.

FOOD INSECURITY

Sources:
Map the Meals Gap (2021). Feeding America. 2023.

(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

- **12.8 percent**, or **17.0 million** United States households are food insecure. This is an increase of **8 percent** compared to the prior year's national food insecurity rate of 11.8 percent.

NYS

- **11.4 percent**, or **nearly 2.3 million** New York State residents are food insecure. This is a decrease of **20 percent** compared to the prior year's food insecurity rate of 9.6 percent.

NYC

- **13.5 percent**, or **nearly 1.2 million** New York City residents are food insecure. This is a decrease of **1.1 percentage point** compared to the prior year's food insecurity rate of 14.6 percent.
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AVERAGE COST PER MEAL

Source: Map the Meals Gap (2021). Feeding America. 2023.

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

US

- The average cost per meal in the United States is **\$3.25**. This is an increase of 4 percent compared to prior year national average of \$3.13.

NYS

- The average cost per meal in New York State is **\$3.78**. This is an increase of 26 cents when compared to the prior year's New York State average of \$3.52.
- The New York State average cost per meal is 53 cents higher than the national average cost per meal (\$3.25).

NYC

- The average cost per meal in New York City is **\$4.37**. This is an increase of 13 cents compared to the prior year New York City average of \$4.24.
- New York City's average cost per meal is 59 cents higher than New York State's average cost per meal (\$3.78) and \$1.12 higher than the national average cost per meal (\$3.25).

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (GROCERIES)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

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

US

- From October 2022 to October 2023, the cost of groceries increased by nearly **2.1 percent**.
- Since the start of COVID-19 in March 2020, the cost of groceries in the United States has increased by **24 percent**.

New York Metro Statistical Area

- From October 2022 to October 2023, the cost of groceries increased by **2.3 percent**.
- Since the start of COVID-19 in March 2020, the cost of groceries in the New York Metropolitan area has increased by **22 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 September 2023, nearly **42 million** (41,760,761) United States residents participate in SNAP. This represents a 2 percent decrease compared to the participation in February 2023 (42.6 million SNAP participants) before the reduction in SNAP benefits occurred.
- The total SNAP benefit amount in the United States has decreased by 28 percent, from \$10.4 billion to \$7.5 Billion since February 2023, the month before the SNAP reduction occurred.

NYS

- As of September 2023, more than **2.8 million** (2,830,301) New York State residents participate in SNAP. This represents a 3 percent decrease compared to the participation in February 2023 (2.92 million SNAP participants) before the reduction in SNAP benefits occurred.
- The total SNAP benefit amount in New York State has decreased **by 29 percent, from \$863 million to \$611 million since February 2023**, the month before the SNAP reduction occurred.

NYC

- As of September 2023, nearly **1.7 million** (1,696,527) New York City residents participate in SNAP. This represents a 3 percent decrease compared to the participation in February 2023 (1.8 million SNAP participants) before the reduction in SNAP benefits occurred.
- The total SNAP benefit amount in New York City has decreased **by 25 percent, from \$526 million to \$393 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.

US

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

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

NYS

- 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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