



HUNGER & POVERTY

Fast FACTS

January 2023

INCLUDES MOST RECENT DATA AVAILABLE AS OF JANUARY 25TH, 2023

FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY

Source: Food Bank for New York City, Fiscal Year 2022.

- Food Bank For New York City's food distribution program provides nearly **96 million free meals** per year for New Yorkers in need.
- Since 1983, Food Bank For New York City has provided more than **1.4 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 approximately **\$74 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.

UNEMPLOYMENT US

Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). 2022.

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

- As of December 2022, the national unemployment rate is **3.5 percent** *[down to 3.6 percent in November]* with nearly **5.7 million (5,722,000)** Americans who are currently unemployed. While this is comparable to the previous month's rate of 3.6 percent, the national unemployment rate is down by **10 percent** when compared to the month of December 2021 (3.9 percent).

NYS

- As of December 2022, the unemployment rate in New York State is **4.3 percent** with more than **413 thousand (413,287)** New York State residents who are currently unemployed. While this is comparable to the previous month's rate of 4.3 percent, the New York State' unemployment rate is down by **20 percent** when compared to the month of December 2021 (7.4 percent).

NYC

- As of December 2022, the unemployment rate in New York City is **5.9 percent** with more than **234,000 thousand (234,206)** New York City residents who are currently unemployed. While this is comparable to the previous month's rate of 5.8 percent, the current New York City unemployment rate is down by **20**
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percent when compared to the month of December 2021 (7.4 percent), a year ago.

FOOD INSECURITY

Sources:

Map the Meals Gap (2020). Feeding America. 2022.

(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

- **11.8 percent**, or **nearly 38.3 million** United States residents are food insecure. This is an increase of **8 percent** compared to prior year national food insecurity rate of 10.9 percent.

NYS

- **9.6 percent**, or **nearly 1.9 million** New York State residents are food insecure. This is a decrease of **10 percent** compared to prior year food insecurity rate of 10.7 percent.

NYC

- **14.6 percent**, or **more than 1.2 million** New York City residents are food insecure. This is an increase of **17 percent** compared to prior year food insecurity rate of 12.5 percent.

AVERAGE COST PER MEAL

Source: Map the Meals Gap (2020). Feeding America. 2022.

(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 **\$3.52**. This is an increase of 6 percent compared to prior year New York State average of \$3.31.
- The New York State average cost per meal is **8 percent** higher than the national average cost per meal (\$3.25).

NYC

- The average cost per meal in New York City is **\$4.24**. This is an increase of 4 percent compared to prior year New York City average of \$4.06.
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- New York City's average cost per meal is 20 percent higher than New York State's average cost per meal (\$3.52) and 30 percent higher than the national average cost per meal (\$3.25).
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (GROCERIES)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

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

US

- From December 2021 to December 2022, the cost of groceries increased by nearly **12 percent**.
- Since the start of COVID-19 in March 2020, the cost of groceries in the United States has increased by **14.2 percent**.

New York Metro Statistical Area

- From December 2021 to December 2022, the cost of groceries increased by **10.1 percent**.
 - Since the start of COVID-19 in March 2020, the cost of groceries in the New York Metropolitan area has increased by **19.4 percent**.
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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 October 2022, more than **42 million** (42,338,021) United States residents participate in SNAP. This is 1.7 percent higher than the prior month's participation (41.6 million SNAP participants) and an increase of nearly 3 percent when compared to last year (41.2 million SNAP participants in October 2021).
- The average monthly household SNAP benefit amount in the United States is **\$480.71**. This is an increase of nearly 13 percent when compared to last month's average SNAP benefit of \$426.48. The current average household SNAP benefit increased by **4 percent** when compared to last year's average SNAP benefit amount (\$460.05 in October 2021).

NYS

- As of October 2022, more than **2.8 million** (2,830,123) New York State residents participate in SNAP. This is comparable to the prior month's participation (2.8 million SNAP participants) and an increase of 2.2 percent when compared to last year (2.7 million SNAP participants in October 2021).
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- The average monthly household SNAP benefit amount in New York State is **\$512.49**. This is an increase of nearly 11 percent when compared to last month's average SNAP benefit of \$460.30. The current average household SNAP benefit increased by **14 percent** when compared to last year's average SNAP benefit amount (\$449.95 in October 2021).

NYC

- As of October 2022, nearly **1.7 million** (1,687,963) New York City residents participate in SNAP. This is comparable to the prior month's participation (1.7 million SNAP participants) and comparable to last year (1.7 million SNAP participants in May 2021).
- New York City residents make up 60 percent of all New Yorkers participating in SNAP.
- The average monthly household SNAP benefit amount in New York City is **\$509.42**. This is an increase of **11 percent** when compared to the prior month's average SNAP benefit of \$458.79. The current average household SNAP benefit increased by **12 percent** when compared to last year's average SNAP benefit amount (\$454.65 in October 2021).

POVERTY

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

Source: 2020 American Community Survey. U.S. Census Bureau. 2022.

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

US

- An estimated **12.8 percent**, or nearly **41 million (40,910,326)** United States residents are considered living below the federal poverty level.

NYS

- An estimated **13.6 percent**, or nearly **2.6 million (2,581,048)** New York State residents are considered living below the federal poverty level. New York State's poverty rate is **6 percent** above the national poverty rate.

NYC

- An estimated **17.3 percent**, or more than **1.4 million (1,423,230)** New York City residents are considered living below the federal poverty level. New York

City's poverty rate is **35 percent above** the federal poverty rate, and **27 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: 2020
American Community
Survey, U.S. Census
Bureau, 2022.

US

- Nearly **327 million (326,569,308)** people are living in the United States.

NYS

- More than **19.5 million (19,514,849)** people are living in New York State.

NYC

- Nearly **8.4 million (8,379,552)** people are living in New York City.

DISABILITY

Source: 2020
American Community
Survey, U.S. Census
Bureau, 2022.

US

- An estimated **12.7 percent**, or nearly **41 million (40,786,461)** U.S. residents are considered living with a disability.

NYS

- An estimated **11.6 percent**, or more than **2.2 million (2,226,768)** New York State residents are considered living with a disability.

NYC

- An estimated **10.9 percent**, or nearly **909 thousand (908,930)** New York City residents are considered living with a disability. This is the equivalent of more than 1 in 10 New York City residents.
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