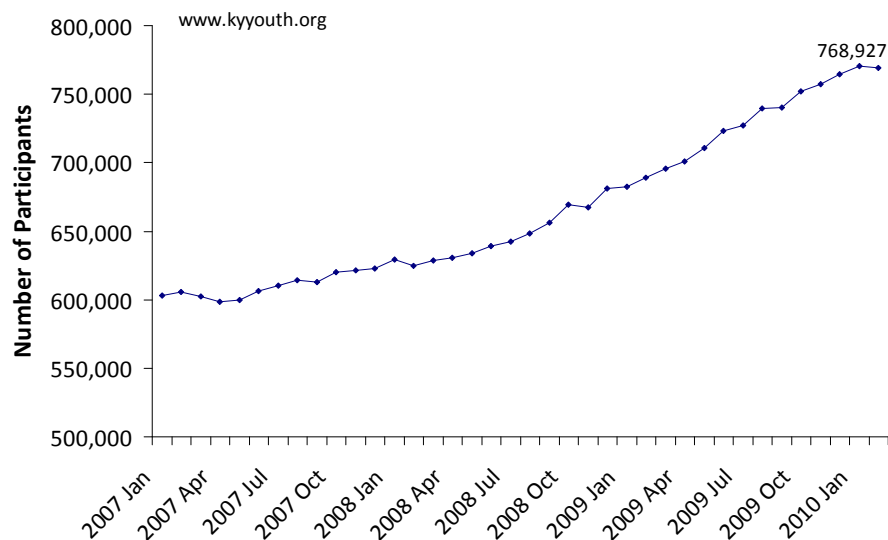


**Food Stamp Participation Declines Slightly in February**

Participation Rate Still Up More than 20 Percent since Start of Recession

The number of people receiving food stamps in February decreased by a little more than 1,800. Still, approximately 769,000 Kentuckians are receiving food assistance through the food stamp program. The current participation rate is 22 percent higher than the 623,019 people who were receiving food stamp benefits in December 2007 – just before the impact of the national recession began to be felt in Kentucky. There have only been three months in the last two years where food stamp participation declined – February 2008, November 2008, and February 2010. The declines in February and November 2008 were followed by increases.

**Monthly Food Stamp Participation in Kentucky**



Source: Cabinet for Health and Family Services: Division of Family Support.

Kentucky’s Food Stamp Program, part of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), helps people buy food who have little or no money. It is a good indicator of the level of need for government assistance.

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[http://www.kyyouth.org/Issue\\_Areas/budget/KentuckyEconomicWatch.html](http://www.kyyouth.org/Issue_Areas/budget/KentuckyEconomicWatch.html).

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