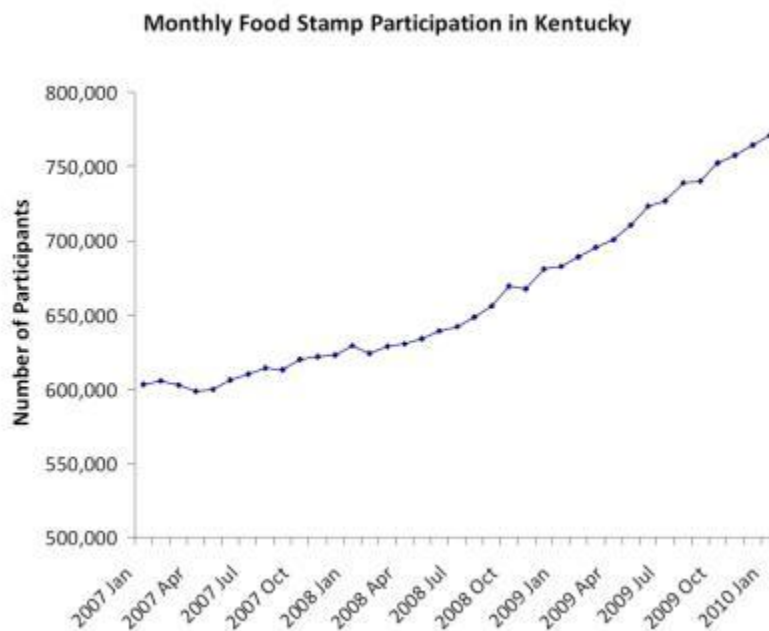


**Recession Causes Increased Need for Food Assistance**  
Participation up 22.4 Percent since start of recession in January 2008

Kentucky’s participation in SNAP (formerly food stamps) increased by 6,084 people from December 2009 to January 2010. The total number of people now receiving SNAP benefits is 770,753, which is a 12.9 percent increase in one year and a 22.4 percent increase since the recession began in January 2008. Food stamp rolls have grown steadily in the last two years, except for the two months where slight declines occurred.



Source: Data provided by the Division of Family Support within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

The Food Stamp Program, renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in October 2008, 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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