

May Food Stamp Participation Up Slightly

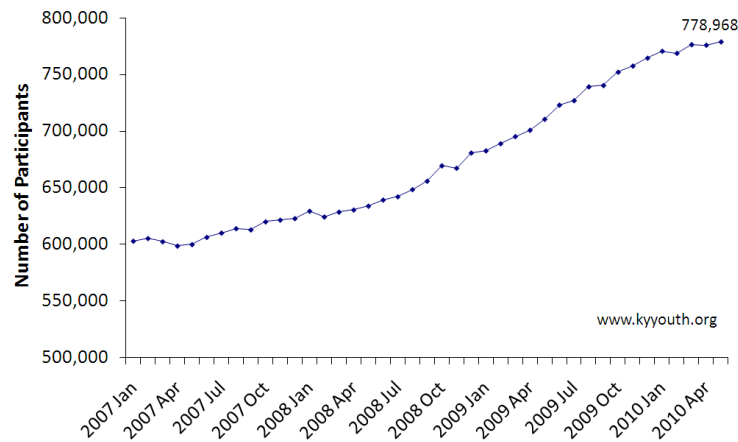
Continued High Participation Highlights Continued Need for Funding Support Services

After a slight decrease in food stamp participation in April, participation peaked again in May. Working Kentuckians are still relying on this important support during the recession. 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.

At the same time that the needs of Kentuckians are increasing, the state has fewer resources to meet those needs. Kentucky’s financial situation became worse last week when the U.S. senate failed to pass legislation that would have provided the state more money for its Medicaid program and extended unemployment benefits – money on which Kentuckians and state policymakers were relying. If congress fails to pass a jobs bill the state budget will be \$238 million short and more than 8,000 Kentuckians will be without the unemployment benefits they have been relying on to make ends meet. This is likely to further increase the need for government assistance and make it increasingly more difficult for the state to provide the services that Kentuckians need – making the impact of the recession worse.

The number of people receiving food stamps in May increased by about 2,900. Participation is still significantly higher than it was at the start of the recession, with just under 150,000 more people using food stamps to supplement their income compared to January 2008. May’s increase is disappointing after the slight decrease in April, indicating the need in Kentucky remains high as [high unemployment](#) persists.

May Food Stamp Participation Highest since Start of Recession



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

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http://www.kyyouth.org/Issue_Areas/budget/KentuckyEconomicWatch.html.

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Kentucky Youth Advocates is home to the Kentucky Tax and Budget Initiative. We work to promote an adequate, sustainable and transparent budget upon which we can build strong public structures and the long-term economic vitality of the Commonwealth. Funding is provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Stoneman Family Foundation.