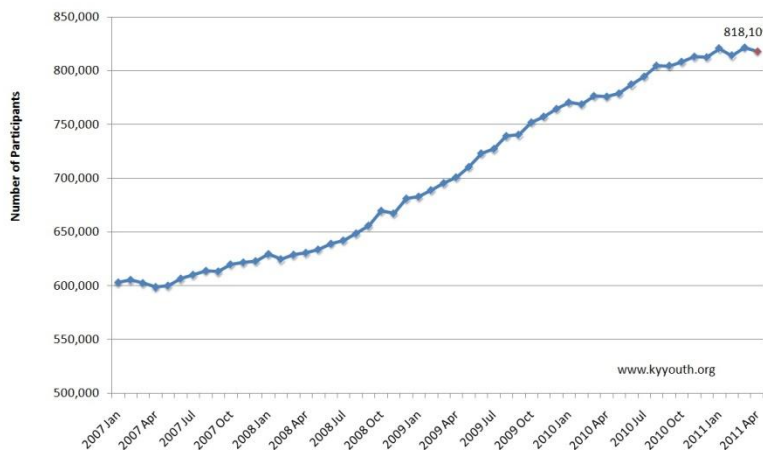


SNAP Participation in Kentucky Down in April
State Revenues Continue to Improve

After peaking in March, participation in the Supplemental Food Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) decreased slightly in April 2011. More than 818,000 Kentuckians relied on this program to feed their families, a decrease of about 3,800 from March 2011. SNAP is a federally funded program that reduces food insecurities by helping Kentuckians get enough nutritious food to eat, and it brings money into our economy through spending at grocery stores. SNAP, in addition to other public programs like the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit and Social Security, [has kept one in six Americans out of poverty](#). Additionally, a state-level Earned Income Tax Credit would supplement the federal credit and SNAP, and support low-income families in Kentucky.

SNAP Participation Decreases slightly in April 2011

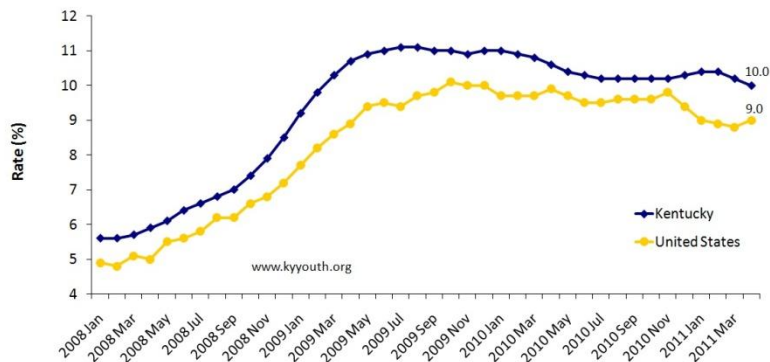


SOURCE: Cabinet for Health and Family Services: Division of Family Support.

Unemployment Lowest Since February 2009

Unemployment Decreases Slightly

Unemployment continued to decrease in April 2011, dropping 0.2 percentage points between March and April 2011. Kentucky's unemployment rate of 10.0 percent is the lowest it has been in over two years.

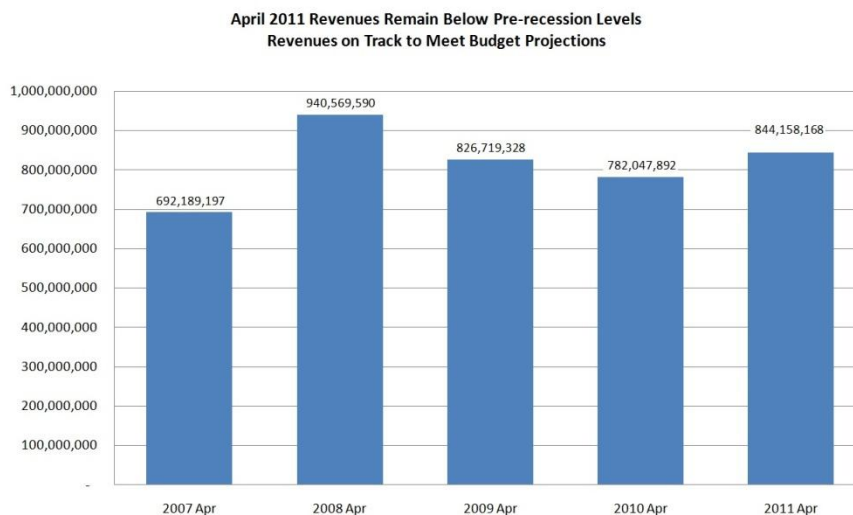


SOURCE Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. Available at: <http://www.workforcekentucky.ky.gov/article.asp?PAGEID=4&SUBID=&articleID=1093>

Non-farm employment grew for the fourth month in a row, according to Dr. Justine Detzel, Office of Employment and Training chief labor market analyst. This, combined with growing strength in the manufacturing sector indicates continued signs of economic recovery. However, unemployment is still higher now than it was in 2008 and SNAP participation remains persistently high. Kentuckians are still struggling to make ends meet in the wake of the recession.

State Revenues Grow

Kentucky revenues showed continued signs of stabilization in April 2011, despite continued high levels of unemployment and SNAP participation. Sales and use tax receipts are up 3.6 percent, the General Fund revenue has increased 7.9 percent, and individual income tax receipts have increased 8.7 percent since April of 2010. Revenues have exceeded estimates from the Consensus Forecasting Group and need to increase 1.0 percent for the remainder of the fiscal year to meet the official estimates. State budget director, Mary Lassiter, says any revenue surpluses will be used to pay for weather-related flooding and storm impacts throughout the state that resulted in increased spending. State law also requires surplus of the funds from coal severance taxes to go back to coal-producing counties.



SOURCE: Office of the State Budget Director, "General Fund and Road Fund Receipts for April 2011"
Available at: <http://www.osbd.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/6ABCF3DD-8887-4082-8D71-E0E94F77C29B/0/1104TaxReceipt.pdf>

Despite increases, general fund revenues remain dramatically lower than they were in April 2008.

To access this issue and archives of the Kentucky Economic Watch, visit:
http://www.kyyouth.org/Issue_Areas/budget/KentuckyEconomicWatch.html.

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.