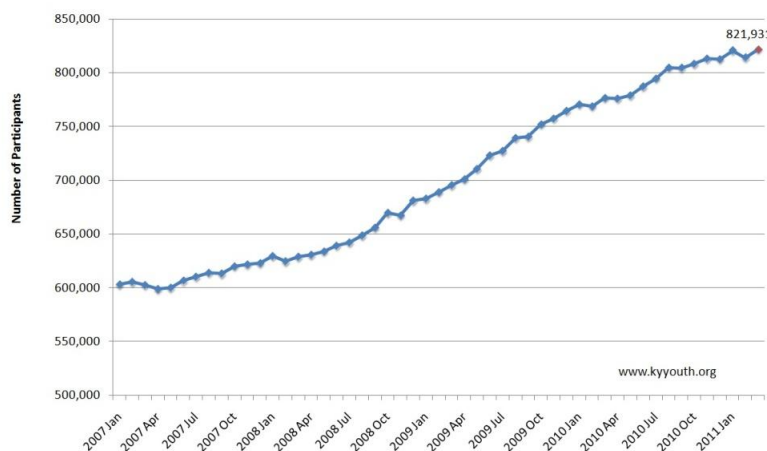


**SNAP Participation in Kentucky Increases in March**  
State Revenues Continue to Improve

Participation in the Supplemental Food Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) peaked in March 2011. More than 821,000 Kentuckians relied on this program to feed their families, an increase of about 7,700 from February 2011. SNAP is a federally funded program that reduces food insecurity by helping Kentuckians get enough nutritious food to eat. Despite this, Congress is entertaining proposals to turn SNAP funding into a block grant to states, a move that would drastically cut the funding states receive for SNAP and harm children and families that rely on this important support. Maintaining the food stamp program is integral to ensuring families have enough food to eat and boosts local economies, since families buy groceries using food stamps in their local communities.

SNAP Participation Peaks in March 2011

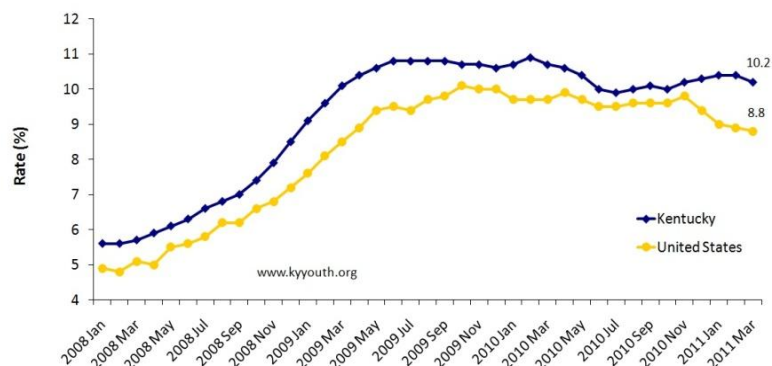


SOURCE: Cabinet for Health and Family Services: Division of Family Support.

**Unemployment decreased**

Unemployment decreased 0.2 percentage points between February and March 2011, leaving Kentucky's unemployment rate at 10.2 percent, still higher than the U.S. rate of 8.8 percent.

Unemployment Decreases in March  
Still 4.4 Percentage Points Higher Since Start of the Recession



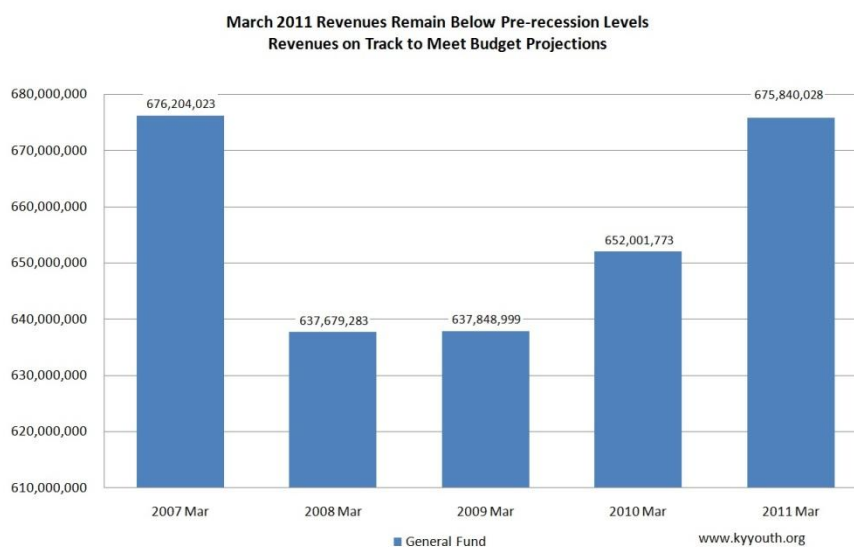
Non-farm employment grew for the third month in a row –

SOURCE Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. Available at: <http://www.workforcekentucky.ky.gov/article.asp?PAGEID=4&SUBID=&articleID=1078>

indicating continued signs of economic recovery. However, the consistently high unemployment rate, combined with persistently high SNAP participation, clearly indicates Kentuckians are still struggling in the midst of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

### Moderate growth in state revenues

Kentucky revenues showed continued signs of stabilization in March 2011, despite high levels of unemployment and SNAP participation. In March 2011, sales and use tax receipts increased 7.3 percent, the General Fund revenue increased 3.7 percent, and individual income tax receipts increased 7.3 percent, when compared to March of last year. Revenues have increased in line with estimates from the Consensus Forecasting Group and need to increase 2.2 percent for the remainder of the fiscal year to meet the official estimates. State budget director, Mary Lassiter, says the revenue increases strongly indicate Kentucky's economy is recovering from the recession.



SOURCE: Office of the State Budget Director, "General Fund and Road Fund Receipts for March 2011"  
Available at: <http://www.osbd.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/OCF1A35A-911A-424F-891E-5DA645471273/0/1103TaxReceipt.pdf>

Because revenues are growing, the state is projecting a \$64 million surplus in the General Fund by the end of the fiscal year, June 30. This is an improvement, but it does not mean Kentucky has completely bounced back from the recession. General Fund revenues are still not meeting their 2007 levels. Additionally, since the recession, tens of thousands of jobs have been lost, and not recovered according to a report from the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy. To read KCEP's full take, follow the link:

<http://kypolicy.org/content/kentuckys-economy-long-way-full-recovery>

To access this issue and archives of the Kentucky Economic Watch, visit:

[http://www.kyouth.org/Issue\\_Areas/budget/KentuckyEconomicWatch.html](http://www.kyouth.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.