

## North Dakota Participants in the Federal Food Stamp Program: Fiscal Years 2002 to 2007

North Dakota participation in the federal Food Stamp Program averaged 45,122 people per month in fiscal year 2007 (based on preliminary data as of January 30, 2008), up 6.0 percent when compared to the 42,576 monthly average for 2006. Nationally, participation in the Food Stamp program decreased 0.7 percent between 2006 and 2007 (Table 1).

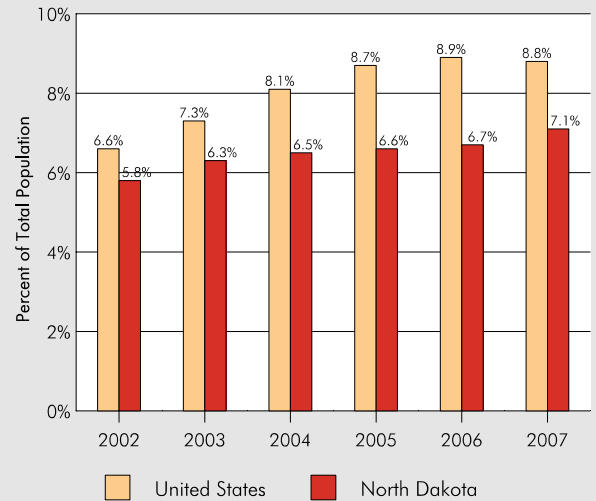
Nearly \$52 million in food stamp benefits were distributed to North Dakota participants in fiscal year 2007, up 12.3 percent from 2006.

Food Stamp Program participants in North Dakota each received, on average, \$95.83 per month in fiscal year 2007, an increase of 5.9 percent from \$90.47 in 2006. Nationally, participants each received an average of \$95.64 per month in 2007, up 1.4 percent from \$94.32 in 2006 (Table 1).

In an average month, food stamp recipients comprised 7.1 percent of North Dakota's total population in 2007. Nationwide, participants comprised 8.8 percent of the total population in 2007 (Figure 1).

Food Stamp Program participation data presented in this publication were obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service and are subject to revision. For additional information on the Food Stamp Program, visit [www.fns.usda.gov/pd/fspmain.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/fspmain.htm).

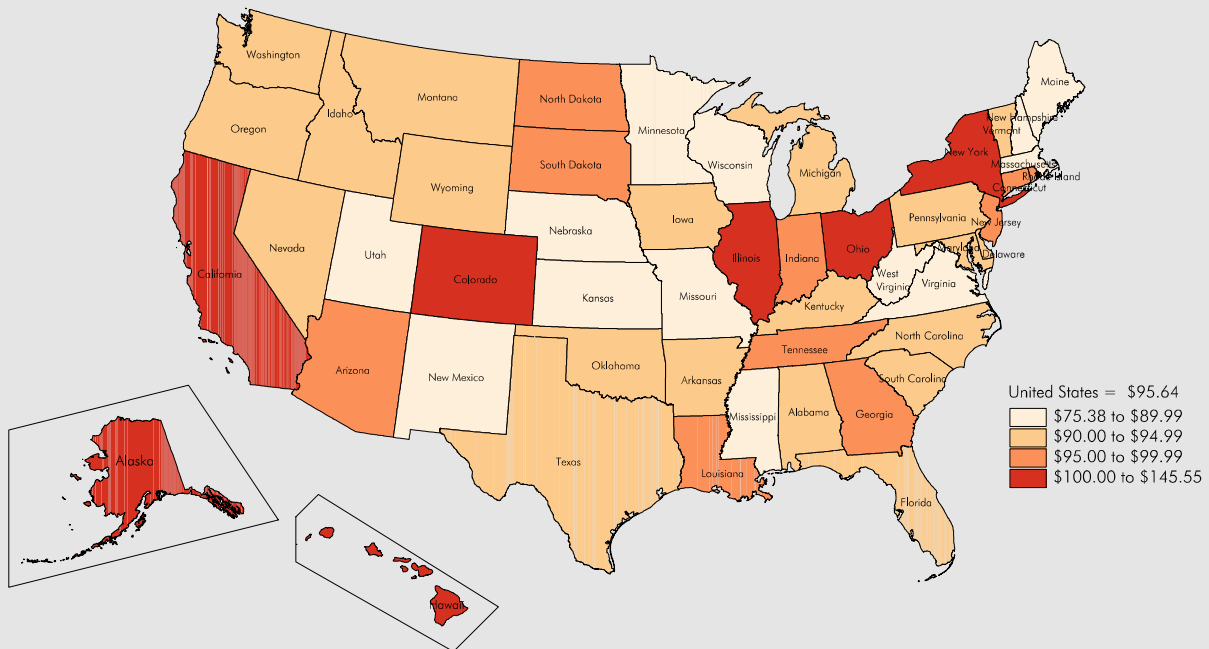
Figure 1. Food Stamp Program Participants: FY 2002-07  
North Dakota and the United States



Note: The percentages represent the fiscal year average monthly food stamp participants divided by the July 1 total population estimates.  
Sources: FOOD STAMP DATA - U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Food Stamp Program, [www.fns.usda.gov/pd/fspmain.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/fspmain.htm). POPULATION - U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Vintage July 1, 2007 population estimates, [www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php](http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php).

Figure 2. Average Monthly Food Stamp Benefit Per Participant by State: FY 2007

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Food Stamp Program, [www.fns.usda.gov/pd/fspmain.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/fspmain.htm)





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## Number of Food Stamp Recipients in North Dakota Increases in 2007

North Dakota participation in the federal Food Stamp Program averaged 45,122 people per month in fiscal year 2007 (based on preliminary data as of January 30, 2008), up 6.0 percent when compared to the 42,576 monthly average for 2006. Nationally, participation in the Food Stamp Program decreased 0.7 percent between 2006 and 2007. To participate in the program, households may not have more than \$2,000 in countable resources, such as a bank account (\$3,000 if at least one person in the household is age 60 or older, or is disabled). Certain resources are not counted, such as home and lot. Special rules are used to determine the resource value of vehicles. The gross monthly income of most households must be at or below 130 percent of federal poverty guidelines (\$1,799 per month for a family of three in most places). There are some allowable deductions such as child care, some shelter costs, and other expenses. In addition, most able-bodied adult participants must meet certain work requirements.

This month's "Economic Brief," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, focuses on the average monthly participation in the federal Food Stamp Program along with the average monthly benefit per participant. The data were obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service.

Nearly \$52 million in food stamp benefits were distributed to North Dakota participants in fiscal year 2007, up 12.3 percent from 2006. "A large portion of our food stamp budget goes to children. For fiscal year 2007, nearly 47 percent of all food stamp recipients were 18 years or younger," said Richard Rathge, Director of the State Data Center.

Food Stamp Program participants in North Dakota each received, on average, \$95.83 per month in fiscal year 2007, an increase of 5.9 percent from \$90.47 in 2006. Nationally, participants each received an average of \$95.64 per month in 2007, up 1.4 percent from \$94.32 in 2006.

In an average month, food stamp recipients comprised 7.1 percent of North Dakota's total population in 2007. In general, the state's rural counties had the lowest proportion of food stamp recipients while the counties with Native American reservations, which have a high poverty rate, had the highest. Nationwide, participants comprised 8.8 percent of the total population in 2007.

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