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## Fact Sheet

### ***Household Food Security in the United States, 2008*** **November 16, 2009**

Today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (USDA) released its annual study measuring food security in the United States, *Household Food Security in the United States, 2008*. This report presents statistics on how much households spent on food, and the extent to which food insecure households participated in federal and community food assistance programs for 2008.

## Key Highlights

- In 2008, 49.1 million (16.4%) Americans lived in food insecure households compared to 36.2 million (12.2%) in 2007.
- In 2008, 17.2 million (14.6%) American households are food insecure compared to 13 million (11.1%) in 2007.
- In 2008, 8.3 million (21%) households with children are living in food insecure households compared to 6.2 million (15.8%) in 2007.
- In 2008, 16.7 million (22.5%) children are living in food insecure households compared to 12.4 million (16.9%) in 2007.
- The number of individuals who are food insecure increased 36% over 2007.
- The number of children increased 35% over 2007.
- Number of households in very low food security: 6,723,000 million  
The number of households with very low food security has increased 42% since 2007.
- Number of individuals in very low food security: 17,284,000 million  
The number of individuals with very low food security has increased 45% since 2007.

The full report can be accessed at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err83>

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