FEEDING TEXAS™

2024

TEXAS THRIFTY FOOD PLAN IMPACT REPORT

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Background

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the most effective anti-hunger program in the U.S. SNAP provides food benefits that are timely, targeted, and short-term.

The Thrifty Food Plan (TFP), created in 1975, is the cheapest of four U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) plans, representing the weekly cost of buying food to maintain a healthy diet. This plan determines the maximum SNAP monthly benefit based on:

- current dietary guidelines,
- food consumption data, and
- cost of food items at retailers.

The bipartisan 2018 Farm Bill directed USDA to update the Thrifty Food Plan. The resulting update in 2021 was the first in the plan's history and led to a necessary and long overdue increase in SNAP benefits. The average daily SNAP benefit increased by $1.20 per person in fiscal year (FY) 2022.

In 49 years, the TFP has only been updated three other times — in 1983, 1999, and 2006 — but these updates did not increase the SNAP benefit amount. As a result, the 2021 update was critical to bring SNAP benefits to an adequate level. Despite this progress, SNAP benefits still do not keep pace with current food prices, falling short of what families need to help keep food on the table.

TFP's Impact in Texas

As a result of the Thrifty Food Plan re-evaluation, Texas received an additional $1.502 billion in total SNAP benefits for FY 2022, according to USDA estimates.

The following table shows the impact of the TFP update across Texas by looking at the total SNAP increase, meal increase, and jobs supported in FY 2022 at a county level.

You can view all of the data in a spreadsheet here.

County Name	FY 2022 Estimated TFP Increase	Increase in Meals	Jobs Supported
Anderson	$2,811,332	903,965	34
Andrews	$794,302	255,403	10
Angelina	$5,663,081	1,820,926	68
Aransas	$1,451,897	466,848	17
Archer	$205,289	66,009	2
Armstrong	$37,384	12,021	0
Atascosa	$3,775,866	1,214,105	45
Austin	$1,148,429	369,270	14
Bailey	$337,488	108,517	4
Bandera	$793,022	254,991	10
Bastrop	$4,610,552	1,482,493	55
Baylor	$194,587	62,568	2
Bee	$2,133,890	686,138	26
Bell	$21,163,344	6,804,934	254
Bexar	$119,786,071	38,516,421	1,436
Blanco	$201,521	64,798	2
Borden	$24,693	7,940	0
Bosque	$743,418	239,041	9
Bowie	$6,040,059	1,942,141	72
Brazoria	$15,031,238	4,833,195	180
Brazos	$8,438,747	2,713,423	101
Brewster	$277,468	89,218	3
Briscoe	$41,676	13,401	0
Brooks	$1,033,091	332,184	12
Brown	$1,894,821	609,267	23
Burleson	$965,884	310,574	12
Burnet	$1,355,208	435,758	16
Caldwell	$2,417,356	777,285	29
Calhoun	$1,186,447	381,494	14

County Name	FY 2022 Estimated TFP Increase	Increase in Meals	Jobs Supported
Callahan	$623,144	200,368	7
Cameron	$42,933,214	13,804,892	515
Camp	$861,479	277,003	10
Carson	$149,005	47,911	2
Cass	$1,965,894	632,120	24
Castro	$342,349	110,080	4
Chambers	$1,724,826	554,606	21
Cherokee	$3,091,335	993,998	37
Childress	$314,628	101,167	4
Clay	$352,940	113,485	4
Cochran	$197,690	63,566	2
Coke	$122,127	39,269	1
Coleman	$434,594	139,741	5
Collin	$18,017,746	5,793,488	216
Collingsworth	$162,951	52,396	2
Colorado	$885,352	284,679	11
Comal	$3,636,702	1,169,358	44
Comanche	$624,773	200,892	7
Concho	$113,691	36,557	1
Cooke	$1,647,527	529,751	20
Coryell	$3,333,449	1,071,849	40
Cottle	$67,605	21,738	1
Crane	$213,286	68,581	3
Crockett	$125,155	40,243	2
Crosby	$473,649	152,299	6
Culberson	$156,390	50,286	2
Dallam	$191,473	61,567	2
Dallas	$142,154,294	45,708,776	1,704
Dawson	$820,584	263,853	10
Deaf Smith	$1,000,533	321,715	12
Delta	$280,410	90,164	3
Denton	$18,010,555	5,791,175	216
DeWitt	$1,244,309	400,100	15
Dickens	$90,356	29,053	1
Dimmit	$1,097,133	352,776	13
Donley	$137,453	44,197	2
Duval	$1,312,607	422,060	16
Eastland	$934,540	300,495	11
Ector	$9,447,109	3,037,656	113
Edwards	$107,487	34,562	1

County Name	FY 2022 Estimated TFP Increase	Increase in Meals	Jobs Supported
Ellis	$6,467,596	2,079,613	78
El Paso	$61,415,852	19,747,862	736
Erath	$1,270,406	408,491	15
Falls	$1,123,770	361,341	13
Fannin	$1,360,051	437,315	16
Fayette	$718,909	231,161	9
Fisher	$174,947	56,253	2
Floyd	$408,136	131,233	5
Foard	$44,904	14,439	1
Fort Bend	$25,159,385	8,089,835	302
Franklin	$449,204	144,439	5
Freestone	$957,881	308,000	11
Frio	$1,537,336	494,320	18
Gaines	$751,988	241,797	9
Galveston	$16,123,048	5,184,260	193
Garza	$211,498	68,006	3
Gillespie	$422,754	135,934	5
Glasscock	$14,624	4,702	0
Goliad	$356,173	114,525	4
Gonzales	$1,298,211	417,431	16
Gray	$1,256,428	403,996	15
Grayson	$5,537,111	1,780,421	66
Gregg	$7,620,304	2,450,259	91
Grimes	$1,530,735	492,198	18
Guadalupe	$5,533,185	1,779,159	66
Hale	$2,038,772	655,554	24
Hall	$191,500	61,576	2
Hamilton	$294,181	94,592	4
Hansford	$118,937	38,244	1
Hardeman	$182,266	58,606	2
Hardin	$2,765,042	889,081	33
Harris	$289,082,749	92,952,652	3,466
Harrison	$3,879,766	1,247,513	47
Hartley	$49,610	15,952	1
Haskell	$292,117	93,928	4
Hays	$6,148,856	1,977,124	74
Hemphill	$76,679	24,656	1
Henderson	$4,726,030	1,519,624	57
Hidalgo	$95,745,408	30,786,305	1,148
Hill	$1,845,360	593,363	22

County Name	FY 2022 Estimated TFP Increase	Increase in Meals	Jobs Supported
Hockley	$1,219,084	391,988	15
Hood	$1,911,705	614,696	23
Hopkins	$1,530,849	492,234	18
Houston	$1,437,934	462,358	17
Howard	$1,793,071	576,550	21
Hudspeth	$351,769	113,109	4
Hunt	$4,760,639	1,530,752	57
Hutchinson	$967,643	311,139	12
Irion	$34,380	11,055	0
Jack	$337,054	108,377	4
Jackson	$811,214	260,841	10
Jasper	$2,504,264	805,229	30
Jeff Davis	$31,763	10,213	0
Jefferson	$18,427,310	5,925,180	221
Jim Hogg	$585,637	188,308	7
Jim Wells	$4,115,948	1,323,456	49
Johnson	$6,437,854	2,070,049	77
Jones	$752,365	241,918	9
Karnes	$943,702	303,441	11
Kaufman	$6,816,880	2,191,923	82
Kendall	$667,767	214,716	8
Kenedy	$11,987	3,854	0
Kent	$25,554	8,217	0
Kerr	$1,674,287	538,356	20
Kimble	$177,780	57,164	2
King	$2,302	740	0
Kinney	$169,521	54,509	2
Kleberg	$2,630,561	845,840	32
Knox	$195,949	63,006	2
Lamar	$3,000,518	964,797	36
Lamb	$776,678	249,736	9
Lampasas	$889,869	286,132	11
La Salle	$513,569	165,135	6
Lavaca	$819,196	263,407	10
Lee	$723,917	232,771	9
Leon	$839,543	269,950	10
Liberty	$7,616,932	2,449,174	91
Limestone	$1,396,700	449,100	17
Lipscomb	$89,299	28,714	1
Live Oak	$625,671	201,180	8

County Name	FY 2022 Estimated TFP Increase	Increase in Meals	Jobs Supported
Llano	$764,468	245,809	9
Loving	$5,591	1,798	0
Lubbock	$16,053,490	5,161,894	192
Lynn	$330,899	106,398	4
Madison	$769,363	247,384	9
Marion	$751,749	241,720	9
Martin	$244,798	78,713	3
Mason	$91,639	29,466	1
Matagorda	$2,702,766	869,057	32
Maverick	$6,710,083	2,157,583	80
McCulloch	$479,116	154,057	6
McLennan	$13,802,173	4,437,998	165
McMullen	$24,588	7,906	0
Medina	$2,586,646	831,719	31
Menard	$86,723	27,885	1
Midland	$6,292,908	2,023,443	75
Milam	$1,483,745	477,089	18
Mills	$151,465	48,703	2
Mitchell	$389,471	125,232	5
Montague	$806,304	259,262	10
Montgomery	$21,273,157	6,840,243	255
Moore	$681,407	219,102	8
Morris	$950,165	305,519	11
Motley	$36,412	11,708	0
Nacogdoches	$3,854,770	1,239,476	46
Navarro	$3,278,022	1,054,026	39
Newton	$892,885	287,101	11
Nolan	$962,902	309,615	12
Nueces	$27,280,931	8,772,004	327
Ochiltree	$282,689	90,897	3
Oldham	$28,136	9,047	0
Orange	$5,325,411	1,712,351	64
Palo Pinto	$1,289,075	414,494	15
Panola	$1,303,593	419,162	16
Parker	$3,605,382	1,159,287	43
Parmer	$269,097	86,526	3
Pecos	$794,946	255,610	10
Polk	$3,344,683	1,075,461	40
Potter	$7,587,903	2,439,840	91
Presidio	$534,899	171,993	6

County Name	FY 2022 Estimated TFP Increase	Increase in Meals	Jobs Supported
Rains	$506,956	163,009	6
Randall	$3,301,167	1,061,469	40
Reagan	$107,302	34,502	1
Real	$167,933	53,998	2
Red River	$677,168	217,739	8
Reeves	$794,872	255,586	10
Refugio	$421,777	135,620	5
Roberts	$17,499	5,627	0
Robertson	$1,213,701	390,258	15
Rockwall	$1,911,918	614,765	23
Runnels	$468,601	150,675	6
Rusk	$2,618,268	841,887	31
Sabine	$699,887	225,044	8
San Augustine	$644,058	207,093	8
San Jacinto	$2,015,974	648,223	24
San Patricio	$4,983,367	1,602,369	60
San Saba	$250,304	80,484	3
Schleicher	$103,969	33,431	1
Scurry	$799,479	257,067	10
Shackelford	$125,440	40,335	2
Shelby	$1,808,799	581,608	22
Sherman	$62,526	20,105	1
Smith	$10,364,824	3,332,741	124
Somervell	$252,901	81,319	3
Starr	$8,643,502	2,779,261	104
Stephens	$488,213	156,982	6
Sterling	$32,278	10,379	0
Stonewall	$42,717	13,735	1
Sutton	$123,829	39,816	1
Swisher	$460,188	147,970	6
Tarrant	$92,267,736	29,668,082	1,106
Taylor	$6,707,657	2,156,803	80
Terrell	$27,123	8,721	0
Terry	$792,470	254,813	10
Throckmorton	$48,189	15,495	1
Titus	$1,596,577	513,369	19
Tom Green	$4,922,630	1,582,839	59
Travis	$37,966,175	12,207,773	455
Trinity	$1,179,911	379,393	14
Tyler	$1,317,204	423,538	16

County Name	FY 2022 Estimated TFP Increase	Increase in Meals	Jobs Supported
Upshur	$2,219,135	713,548	27
Upton	$147,504	47,429	2
Uvalde	$2,387,136	767,568	29
Val Verde	$4,041,327	1,299,462	48
Van Zandt	$2,343,598	753,569	28
Victoria	$6,069,236	1,951,523	73
Walker	$2,931,979	942,759	35
Waller	$2,439,092	784,274	29
Ward	$556,079	178,803	7
Washington	$1,311,386	421,667	16
Webb	$29,214,594	9,393,760	350
Wharton	$2,688,789	864,563	32
Wheeler	$195,238	62,778	2
Wichita	$7,028,735	2,260,043	84
Wilbarger	$748,106	240,549	9
Willacy	$1,931,470	621,051	23
Williamson	$11,347,879	3,648,836	136
Wilson	$1,664,474	535,201	20
Winkler	$371,516	119,459	4
Wise	$1,974,413	634,860	24
Wood	$1,784,666	573,848	21
Yoakum	$293,270	94,299	4
Young	$695,480	223,627	8
Zapata	$1,864,279	599,447	22
Zavala	$1,470,281	472,759	18

State Total

$1,502,000,000
FY 2022 Estimated TFP Increase

482,958,199
Increase in Meals

18,006
Jobs Supported

Sources

HHSC Monthly Benefits Data
USDA-FNS Estimated Increase in Benefits
American Progress Economic Impact Analysis

Analysis provided by Dwyer Consulting for Feeding Texas, March 2024

Conclusion

In total, the TFP update brought an estimated $1.502 billion, or nearly 483 million meals, to Texas to feed families in need. The update also helped to stimulate the Texas economy, supporting an estimated 18,006 jobs.

The 2021 TFP re-evaluation made up for five decades of shortchanging families with inadequate benefits. Future updates to TFP will not be as big as the update in 2021, since it had to account for five decades of deferred adjustments.

More adequate SNAP benefits reduce food insecurity, with long-term beneficial impacts, such as supporting economic mobility and reducing health care costs. Increased SNAP benefit levels are also associated with positive child health outcomes, including healthier weight and fewer school days missed due to illness.

More adequate SNAP benefits are good for everyone, and limiting future updates to the TFP would lead to SNAP becoming inadequate again. Evaluating the Thrifty Food Plan without adjusting the SNAP benefit ignores the reality of market rates and evolving dietary guidelines. If scientific evidence shows that a healthy diet costs more, then SNAP benefits should adjust.

Preventing or limiting future updates would lead to a cut, with SNAP once again becoming insufficient to purchase a healthy diet.

Sources & Methodology

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) provides monthly benefits data that were used to determine each county's percentage of total Texas SNAP benefits in FY 2022. The estimated TFP increase by county was then calculated by applying each county's share to the total $1.502 billion estimated SNAP increase.

According to the Center for American Progress, 11,988 jobs are supported per every $1 billion investment in SNAP because recipients spend their benefits in their local communities, with a particularly strong impact in food-related industries. This calculation was used to determine the increase in the number of jobs supported across Texas.

Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap study determined $3.11 is the statewide average for the price of a meal in Texas.