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# Domestic Food Programs

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Preliminary data indicate that Federal expenditures for USDA-supported feeding programs fell from \$4.5 billion in the first 3 months of 1981 to \$4.1 billion in that period this year. The only increase in participation was in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

The largest decrease in the number of participants was in the School Breakfast Program (SBP). The number decreased from an average of 3.9 million in the first quarter of 1981 to 3.3 million in the first quarter of 1982, a decline of 13.5 percent. Program costs also fell—by 8.1 percent—from \$108.1 million to \$101.2 million. Participation in the Child Care Food Program (CCFP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP) fell by 12.3 and 11.1 percent, respectively. Expenditures for the CCFP fell from \$75.9 million in the first quarter of 1981 to \$69.1 million in the same period in 1982. Expenditures for the NSLP declined from \$778 million to \$709 million.

Higher meal prices, stricter eligibility criteria, and declining school enrollments are responsible for the significant decreases in participation. The number of private schools offering child nutrition programs has declined because of tuition restrictions that became effective on October 1, 1981. Private schools with average annual tuition of \$1,500 per child became ineligible to participate.

Stricter eligibility guidelines are also responsible for a 1.8-percent reduction in FSP participation between the first quarter of 1981 and the same period in 1982. The number of people receiving stamps declined from 22.7 million to 22.3 million.

The average bonus per person also fell during this period from \$41.78 to \$39.41. The decline is attributed to a provision of the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981 which requires that the value of the food stamp allotment to each household be prorated during the initial month. Previously, a

household received the full value of the monthly allotment regardless of what day during the month they were certified as eligible for program benefits. By prorating, a household certified on the 15th of the month receives stamps equal to only one-half of the total value of the allotment.

The Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides food assistance and nutrition education to low-income mothers and young children. Average participation in the program fell by 4 percent between the first quarter of 1981 and the same three months in 1982, from 2.2 million to 2.1 million. Total expenditures for the program increased, however, from \$232.1 million in the first quarter of 1981 to \$237.1 million in 1982. While expenditures for food for the program declined from \$187.3 million to \$184.9 million between the first quarters of 1981 and 1982, administrative costs increased from \$44.8 million to \$52.2 million. This

Table 1. Federal Cost of USDA Food Programs

ITEM	1979 <sup>1</sup>	1980	1981	1981				1982 <sup>2</sup>			
				1	2	3	4	1	2	3	
				Million Dollars							
Food stamps											
Total issued	7111	9004	10968	2856	2817	2698	2597	2647	2601	2361	
Bonus stamps	7108	9004	10968	2856	2817	2698	2597	2647	2601	2361	
Food distribution <sup>3</sup>											
Needy families	22.2	23.5	33.0	12.2	6.3	6.1	8.4	25.9	31.1	25.0	
Schools <sup>4</sup>	720	967	825	328	160	116	221	259	118	112	
Other <sup>5</sup>	85	115	108	29	29	25	24	40	41	28	
Child nutrition <sup>6</sup>											
School lunch	2101	2395	2286	778	569	271	667	709	528	290	
School breakfast	243	311	331	108	84	43	97	100	78	45	
Special food <sup>7</sup>	288	338	400	76	97	155	72	67	81	139	
Special milk	146	137	73	34	25	8	5	6	5	5	
WIC <sup>8</sup>	569	783	869	232	209	214	214	237	244	264	
Total <sup>9</sup>	11283	14075	15892	4454	3995	3537	3906	4092	3726	3269	

<sup>1</sup>Annual totals computed from monthly data beginning with 1979. Previously obtained from quarterly data supplied by FNS.

<sup>2</sup>Preliminary.

<sup>3</sup>Cost of food delivered to State distribution centers.

<sup>4</sup>Includes Child-Care and Summer Food Service Programs.

<sup>5</sup>Includes Supplemental Food, Nutrition Program for the Elderly and donations to charitable institutions.

<sup>6</sup>Money donated for local purchase of food. Excludes nonfood assistance.

<sup>7</sup>Includes Child-Care and Summer Food Service Programs.

<sup>8</sup>Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children. Includes food and administrative costs.

<sup>9</sup>Excludes those food stamps paid for by the recipient.