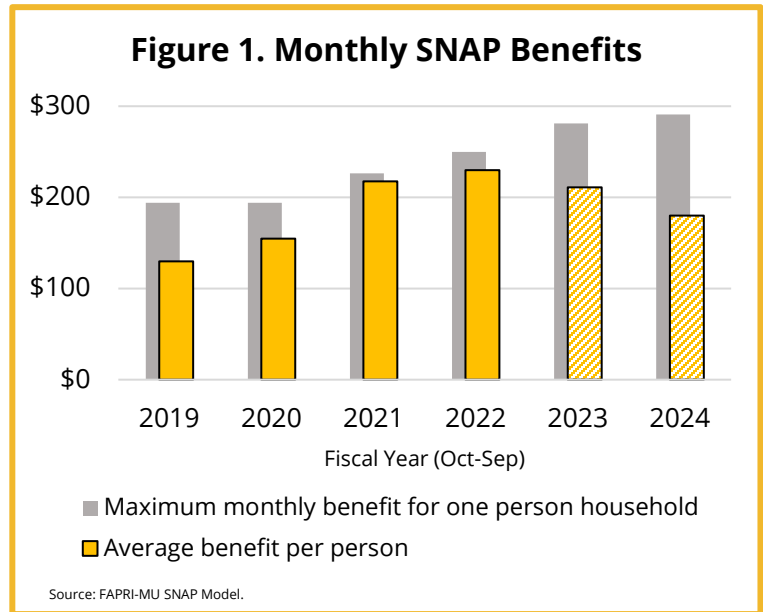




Federal Spending on SNAP Expected to Decline in FY 2024 As Emergency Allotments Phased Out

Preliminary USDA [program data](#) for the first 10 months of fiscal year (FY) 2023 signal that federal spending on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is likely to total \$112 billion for the year, a roughly \$8 billion decline from its peak in 2022. This estimate excludes [P-EBT](#), associated with school lunch reimbursements.

The average monthly SNAP benefit per person has started to decline significantly, compared to maximum benefit levels, as most states phased out emergency allotments earlier this year. In January 2023, SNAP participants received an average of \$254, roughly 90% of the authorized maximum benefit level for a one-person household. In July 2023, the ratio of average over maximum benefits dropped to 62% as most households no longer qualified maximum benefits. Though lower, this ratio is relatively similar to pre-COVID SNAP averages. Even at 62%, the average monthly benefit remains higher than the pre-COVID era due to significant increases in maximum benefits over the past three years (Figure 1).



It is worth noting that higher benefits tend to make SNAP more attractive to those who are eligible, but factors like economic performance or changes in program rules can affect eligibility and participation rates. For FY 2024, our [FAPRI SNAP model](#) projects that participation will decline slightly to 41.5 million people and monthly benefits will average \$180 per person. Total federal spending on SNAP (including administrative costs) is projected to decline further in FY 2024 to \$95 billion, down \$17 billion from FY 2023 (Figure 2). Assuming the current policy environment continues in the next 10 years, federal spending is projected to average \$100 billion annually. Our estimates are comparable to [CBO projections](#), with a slight difference in how administrative costs are counted for.

