

SNAP Helps 1 in 11 Workers in Alaska Put Food on the Table



SNAP, called the Food Stamp Program in Alaska, plays a crucial role in helping workers in low-paying jobs afford a basic diet in Alaska. Roughly 31,000 Alaskan workers live in households that participated in the Food Stamp Program in the last year, Census data show.

Millions of Americans work in jobs with low wages, inconsistent schedules, and no benefits such as paid sick leave — all of which contribute to high turnover and spells of unemployment. Many of these workers get help putting food on the table through the Food Stamp Program.

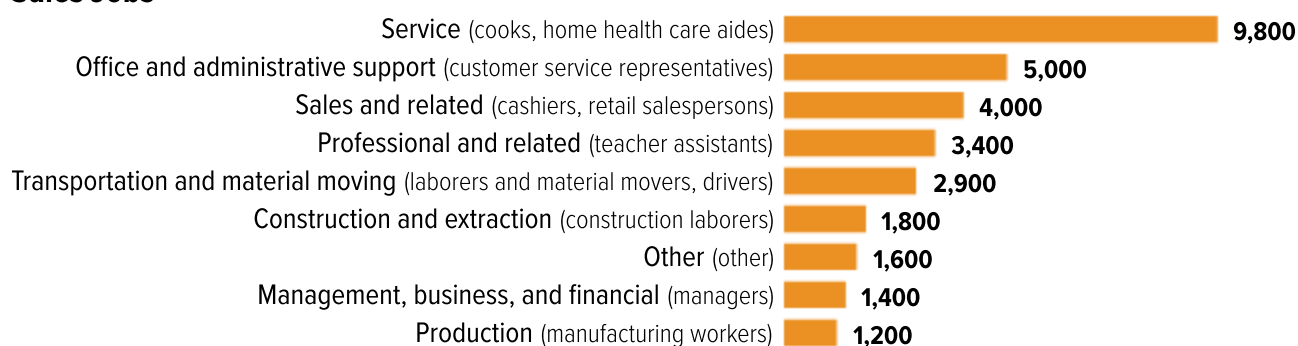
The Food Stamp Program Helps Workers:

- ✓ Who earn low wages.
The Food Stamp Program boosts low wages to help workers afford adequate food.
- ✓ Who have unpredictable schedules.
Food Stamp Program benefits help smooth out variable income for workers whose paychecks rise and fall as their hours change.
- ✓ Who are between jobs.
The Food Stamp Program helps workers without paid sick leave or other benefits, which can cause them to lose income or employment when they have a family crisis.

Alaskans Participating in the Food Stamp Program Most Commonly Work in Service, Office, and Sales Jobs

In Alaska, workers who participate in the Food Stamp Program most commonly work in service occupations, such as cooks or home health care aides, office and administrative support occupations, such as customer service representatives, and sales and related occupations, such as cashiers or retail salespersons.

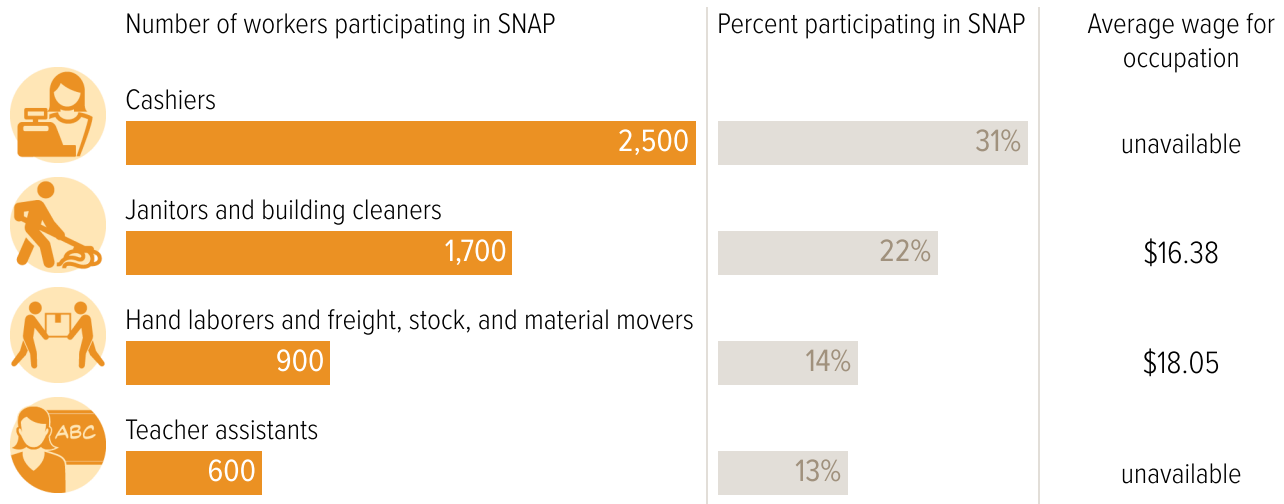
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Working Alaskans Participating in the Food Stamp Program Typically Have Jobs With Low Wages

For example, some of the top occupations among Alaskans participating in the Food Stamp Program have average hourly wages far below the state average of \$27.77 in 2017.

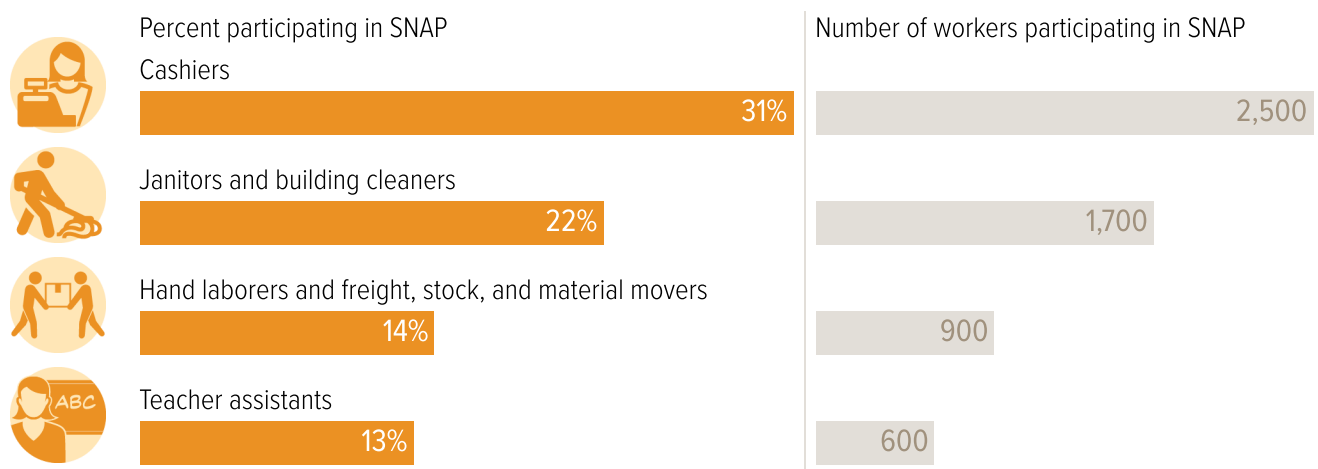
Top Occupations Among Alaskans Participating in the Food Stamp Program by Number of Workers



In Some Occupations, a Large Share of Workers Participate in the Food Stamp Program

Workers in many of these jobs often earn low wages or work fewer or less consistent hours than they would like, so the Food Stamp Program provides essential support. Close to one-third of cashiers, over one-fifth of janitors and building cleaners, and over one-tenth of hand laborers and material movers and teacher assistants participate in the Food Stamp Program.

Top Occupations in Alaska by Percentage of Workers Participating in the Food Stamp Program



For more state data and source information, see “Workers From a Wide Array of Occupations Use SNAP,” <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/interactive-workers-from-a-wide-array-of-occupations-use-snap>.