

FRAC's National, State, and Local Index of Food Hardship June 2016

"Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?" That question was part of a survey conducted by Gallup in 2015 as part of the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, in which 177,281 households participated.¹

This Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) report on the answers to that question reveals two important findings:

- The situation is getting better: 2015 had the lowest rate of "yes" answers in the eight years Gallup has been asking this question; December 2015 had the lowest monthly rate of food hardship in the 96 months the question has been asked; and
- Too many Americans in every community and every state still struggle to put food on the table. Nationally, one in six households answered the Gallup question with "yes."

Food Hardship in U.S. Declines Significantly from 2013 to 2015

The nation has made considerable progress in reducing food hardship since the height of the recession in 2008 and through 2013. The rate has fallen from nearly 19 percent in 2013 to 16 percent in 2015.

There were numerous causes of this nearly three-point drop in food hardship, potentially including:

- the improved unemployment picture;

National Food Hardship Rates, 2008–2015

Year	Food Hardship Rate
2008	17.8
2009	18.3
2010	18.1
2011	18.6
2012	18.2
2013	18.9
2014	17.2
2015	16.0

- the increase in the share of eligible families actually receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps);
- the ongoing impact of the improved Earned Income Tax Credit and refundable Child Tax Credit that Congress made permanent in 2015; and
- the impact on family finances of Medicaid expansions and other health insurance affordability improvements under the Affordable Care Act.

Still, in 2015, 16 percent of surveyed households indicated they experienced food hardship. As the economy continues to recover from the Great Recession, these findings show that there are millions of Americans who are being left behind.

¹ Slightly fewer households — 176,816 — answered the food hardship question.

The persistence of a high rate of food hardship underscores the failure of the economy to provide family-supporting wages and the failure of Congress to respond with adequately robust initiatives to boost jobs, wages, and public programs for struggling families, such as benefits and eligibility in SNAP and child nutrition programs.

Food hardship is not an isolated or concentrated phenomenon. At least 15 percent of households were suffering food hardship:

- in 25 states; and
- in 72 out of 100 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs).

Food hardship — a marker for household struggles with hunger — harms children, working-age adults, people with disabilities, and seniors. It harms health, learning, and productivity; and it drives up health and other costs for families, employers, and government. This is a serious national problem that requires a serious national response. Yet, as the survey findings indicate, and despite significant improvements over the last two years, the country fails to grapple seriously with food hardship and poverty, despite the harm they do and despite available solutions.

The need for even more intensive efforts to reduce hunger is essential to every state, every MSA, and every community, and the data in this report underscore that conclusion.

These data examine 2015 food hardship rates (or, for MSAs, 2014 to 2015 rates). The report and the appendices contain charts providing data:

- for the nation, by year, quarter, and month;
- for all states and the District of Columbia in 2015, listed alphabetically;
- for all states and the District of Columbia in 2015, by rank;
- for the 109 MSAs represented in the 2014 to 2015 Gallup data, listed alphabetically; and
- for those MSAs in 2014 to 2015, by rank.

Because Gallup's partnership with Healthways involves interviewing so many households per day almost every day,

year-round, this survey has several key, unusual characteristics:

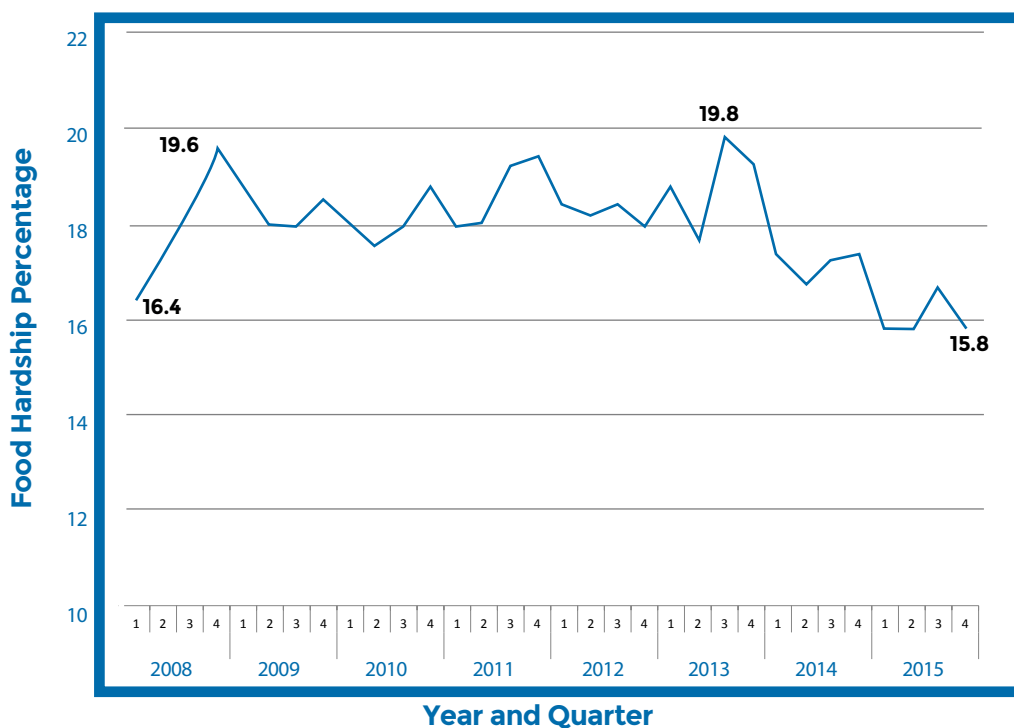
- 1) Large sample sizes that allow estimation of food hardship annually at the state level, and biannually at the MSA level;
- 2) Weighted data that are representative of the nation, states, and MSAs; and
- 3) A large enough national sample size to allow monthly and quarterly analyses of the food hardship rate. (Further technical notes on the sample size and methodology appear at the end of the report.)

Food Hardship in the Nation

Nationally in 2015, 16 percent of respondents reported food hardship. This is down almost three points from the 18.9 percent rate in 2013, and is the lowest rate since Gallup began collecting these data in early 2008.

A look at the data by quarter (see Appendix A) provides a similar but more detailed picture of what has happened: the food hardship rate increased at the beginning of the recession, and was slowly and somewhat erratically trending down after that, with the sharpest sustained drops in 2014 and 2015. Specifically, the food hardship rate was 16.4 percent in the first quarter of 2008 and then increased rapidly over the next three quarters to 19.6 percent as the impacts of the Great Recession widened. In the ensuing four-and-a-half years (in 2009 through the first three quarters of 2013), the rate varied between 17.5 percent and 19.8 percent. It was not until 2014 that the rate dipped below 17.5 percent — and it did so for every quarter in that year. The food hardship rate continued to fall in 2015, and was below 16 percent in three of the four quarters.

Despite significant improvements over the last two years, the country fails to grapple seriously with food hardship and poverty, despite the harm they do and despite available solutions.



Despite this marked recent improvement, 15 to 16 percent of households are still reporting food hardship in every quarter — barely below early 2008 levels. The nation has an unacceptable long-term food hardship problem. Americans do not always recognize how pervasive struggles against hunger are, or that hunger is a problem where they live.

In America’s communities, hunger often is hidden by individuals or families that do not want to share with their neighbors the fact that they are struggling economically. Sometimes hunger hides behind doors of nice houses with mortgages in default, or the heat turned off, or all of the income going to housing costs, leaving little or none for food. Sometimes it hides behind the stoic faces of parents or grandparents who skip meals to protect their children or grandchildren from hunger. It goes unseen by those not looking for it. In a poll conducted for Tyson Foods and FRAC, two-thirds of Americans rated hunger as a worse problem at the national level than at their community level, but what these food hardship data underscore is that significant numbers of Americans in every state and every community are struggling against hunger.

Food Hardship in States

Rates of food hardship in 2015 varied from a low of 8.4 percent in North Dakota to a high of 23 percent in Mississippi (see Appendix B). Mississippi may have the worst rate among states, with an extraordinary rate of nearly one in four households reporting food hardship, but food hardship is a significant problem in every state — even North Dakota’s one in 12 is hardly acceptable. Over half of the states — 31 — had at least one in seven respondent households (14.3 percent or more) answer that they did not have enough money to buy food at some point in the past 12 months.

Of the 16 states with the worst rates, eight were in the Southeast region, five were in the Southwest, one was in the West, one in the Mid-Atlantic region, and one in the Midwest.

Data for all 50 states and the District of Columbia are in Appendices B (listed alphabetically) and C (ranked by food hardship rate).

Top 20 States with Worst Food Hardship Rates in 2015

	Food Hardship Rate	Rank
Mississippi	23.0	1
Louisiana	21.5	2
Alabama	20.0	3
Oklahoma	19.5	4
West Virginia	19.4	5
Kentucky	19.3	6
Georgia	18.5	7
Tennessee	18.5	7
Nevada	18.0	9
South Carolina	18.0	9
Arkansas	18.0	9
New Mexico	17.8	12
North Carolina	17.0	13
Ohio	17.0	13
Florida	16.7	15
Texas	16.7	15
Delaware	16.0	17
Idaho	15.9	18
Arizona	15.9	18
Missouri	15.7	20
New York	15.7	20

Food Hardship in Metropolitan Areas

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) are Census Bureau-defined areas that include central cities plus the surrounding counties with strong economic and social ties to the central cities. In looking at MSA food hardship rates, FRAC aggregated 2014 and 2015 data to produce more accurate estimates and smaller margins of error. While there was variation around the country, the inability to purchase adequate food was a serious problem in every MSA.

Of the 109 MSAs represented in the Gallup-Healthways survey in 2014 to 2015:

- 52 had at least one in six respondents answer that they did not have enough money to buy needed food at times in the past 12 months; and

- 93 had at least one in eight (12.5 percent or more) households affirmatively answer that they struggle to afford food.

The worst MSAs are: Bakersfield, CA; Lakeland, FL; Memphis, TN-MS-AR; and Jackson, MS.

Most of the MSAs with the highest rates of food hardship were in the Southeast, plus California. Of the 21 MSAs with the worst rates, 11 were in the Southeast, five were in the Southwest, three in the West, and the remaining two in the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest regions.

See Appendices D and E for MSA data, listed alphabetically (Appendix D) and by food hardship rank (Appendix E).

Top 20 MSAs with Worst Food Hardship Rates in 2015

	Food Hardship Rate	Rank
Bakersfield, CA	24.2	1
Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL	23.2	2
Memphis, TN-MS-AR	22.6	3
Jackson, MS	22.6	3
Fresno, CA	22.4	5
Augusta-Richmond County, GA-SC	22.4	5
Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA	22.3	7
New Orleans-Metairie, LA	22.3	7
Greensboro-High Point, NC	22.2	9
Columbia, SC	22.0	10
Dayton, OH	21.7	11
Baton Rouge, LA	21.3	12
Chattanooga, TN-GA	21.1	13
Winston-Salem, NC	20.6	14
El Paso, TX	20.2	15
Albuquerque, NM	20.1	16
Tulsa, OK	19.9	17
Tucson, AZ	19.6	18
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	19.4	19
Birmingham-Hoover, AL	19.4	19
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent, FL	19.4	19

Food Hardship Factors

Many families simply do not have adequate resources — from wages, child support payments, Social Security and other retirement benefits, public program income supports, SNAP, and the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) — to purchase enough food. Too many working-age adults are unemployed or working part-time jobs but want full-time employment. Many others are working for wages that are not enough to afford the basics for themselves and their families. Income support programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Unemployment Insurance, and Worker’s Compensation are inadequate and increasingly difficult to apply for and maintain benefits. While SNAP is critical in providing nutrition assistance to both working and non-working

households — supplementing wages, Social Security, or other sources of income — the benefits just are not enough for most families to make it through the month. An expert committee of the prestigious Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued a report in January 2013 explaining that the SNAP allotment — based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) “Thrifty Food Plan” — is not enough for most families. A [December 2015 White House report on the long-term benefits of SNAP](#) (pdf) underscored the inadequacy of current SNAP benefit amounts for households.

The data in this report represent an economic and political failure that is leaving tens of millions of Americans struggling with hunger, and this struggle is happening in every community in America.

Recommendations

As the recession's worst effects dissipate, high food hardship rates throughout the nation now are a reflection of the nation's long-term failure to address poverty and hunger. It is crucial that the nation take actions that will dramatically decrease these food hardship numbers. The cost of not doing so — in terms of damage to health, education, early childhood development, and productivity — is just too high. The moral cost of not doing so is even higher.

The path — to reduce the suffering and unnecessary human, community, and national costs caused by hunger, poverty, and reduced opportunity — is clear:

- Higher employment rates;
- More full-time jobs and jobs with hours and schedules that fit the needs of working parents;
- Better wages and job benefits;
- Stronger income supports for those out of work, unable to work, or working at low wages, through improved unemployment insurance, TANF, refundable tax credits, and other means; and
- Expanded nutrition programs.

That last point means broadened eligibility, improved access among those who are eligible (only four out of five eligible people receive SNAP benefits and barely half of eligible children receive school breakfast), and upgraded benefits, especially in SNAP.

As noted earlier, an IOM committee issued an important report in 2013 that found SNAP benefits to be too low for most families. The report's detailing of the shortcomings underscores why proposals in Congress to cut SNAP benefits by billions of dollars would worsen health and hunger for struggling children, seniors, and working families.

Some of the flaws the IOM committee pointed to (e.g., the lag in SNAP benefits keeping up with inflation, and the failure in computing families' ability to purchase food to fully account for shelter costs) are due to previous cuts made by Congress. Congress needs to fix the problems rather than doubling down on harming the most vulnerable Americans. Protecting and strengthening SNAP must be a top priority.

These recommendations are described in the [Plan of Action to End Hunger in America](#) (pdf) that FRAC released in late 2015. Its recommendations can be boiled down to implementing eight key strategies:

- 1) Create jobs, raise wages, increase opportunity, and share prosperity;
- 2) Improve government income support programs for struggling families;
- 3) Strengthen SNAP;
- 4) Strengthen child nutrition programs;
- 5) Target supports to especially vulnerable populations;
- 6) Work with states, localities, and nonprofits to expand and improve participation in federal nutrition programs;
- 7) Make sure all families have convenient access to reasonably priced, healthy food; and
- 8) Build political will.

Conclusion

Americans in every community want their political leaders to attack hunger aggressively, not reduce anti-hunger efforts. In polls that FRAC has commissioned, voters overwhelmingly say the federal government should have a major role to ensure that low-income households — particularly children — have the food and nutrition they need.

Voters overwhelmingly say the federal government should be spending more money on solving hunger or should continue to spend the same amount. When voters are told that Congress is considering cutting billions of dollars to reduce government spending on anti-hunger programs, they overwhelmingly tell pollsters that cutting food assistance programs like SNAP is the wrong way to reduce government spending. These attitudes cross party lines. With such strong agreement among constituents, key political leaders should support aggressive anti-hunger efforts and pursue bipartisan cooperation toward finding solutions that end hunger and poverty for their constituents and the nation as a whole.

About This Report

This report is one of a series in which FRAC analyzes survey data collected by Gallup through the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index and provided to FRAC. Last year, 2015, was the eighth year that Gallup had collected such data.

Gallup measures food hardship with the following question: “Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?” In this report we define an answer of “yes” as reflecting “food hardship.” FRAC uses this phrase to avoid confusion with the annual Census Bureau/USDA survey and analysis that produces “food insecurity” numbers, but the concepts are comparable.

Methodology

Results are based on telephone (landline or cellular) interviews in 2015 for national and state estimates, and in 2014 and 2015 for MSA estimates, with randomly sampled adults, age 18 or older in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Total sample sizes for the food hardship question for 2014 and 2015 were 176,699 and 176,816, respectively. Margins of error were calculated using 90 percent confidence intervals.

Data are weighted to be representative at the national, state, and MSA levels based on known figures for age, race/ethnicity,

sex, education, population density (for national estimates), region, and phone status (i.e., landline vs. cellular). In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

At the national level for 2015 (sample size: 176,816) the margin of error was less than or equal to ± 0.15 percentage points. At the national level for 2008 to 2015 by month (sample size range: 13,134 to 31,375), the margin of error was less than or equal to ± 0.57 percentage points. At the national level for 2008 to 2015 by quarter (sample size range: 42,693 to 91,634), the margin of error was less than or equal to ± 0.32 percentage points.

At the state level for 2015 (sample size range: 395 to 17,175), the margin of error was less than or equal to ± 3 percentage points.

At the MSA level for 2014 to 2015 (sample size range: 306 to 17,968), the margin of error was less than or equal to ± 3.5 percentage points. This report includes only MSAs where at least 300 households responded to the survey in each 2014 and 2015.

Acknowledgments

This report was prepared by Randy Rosso at the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC).

Appendix A: Nation by Year, Quarter, and Month

National Food Hardship Rates, 2008-2015

Year	Food Hardship Rate
2008	17.8
2009	18.3
2010	18.1
2011	18.6
2012	18.2
2013	18.9
2014	17.2
2015	16.0

National Food Hardship Rates by Quarter, 2008-2015

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Food Hardship Rate								
Quarter 1	16.4	18.8	18.0	17.9	18.4	18.8	17.4	15.8
Quarter 2	17.3	18.0	17.5	18.0	18.2	17.8	16.7	15.8
Quarter 3	18.3	18.0	18.0	19.2	18.4	19.8	17.2	16.7
Quarter 4	19.6	18.5	18.8	19.4	17.9	19.3	17.4	15.8

National Food Hardship by Month, 2008-2015

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Food Hardship Rate								
January	16.5	18.8	18.1	18.4	18.3	18.9	17.6	16.3
February	16.3	19.1	17.9	17.6	18.1	19.4	17.6	15.7
March	16.2	18.6	18.0	17.6	18.6	18.3	16.9	15.5
April	16.8	18.2	17.1	17.4	17.5	17.7	16.9	16.0
May	17.6	18.4	17.9	18.4	18.3	17.9	16.6	15.6
June	17.5	17.4	17.5	18.3	18.7	17.7	16.8	15.7
July	17.1	17.8	17.6	19.1	18.8	20.0	17.0	17.2
August	19.2	17.9	18.2	18.8	18.4	20.0	17.8	16.1
September	18.7	18.2	18.1	19.8	17.9	19.4	16.7	16.8
October	18.9	19.0	19.4	20.1	18.1	19.5	17.7	16.4
November	20.4	18.3	18.2	19.0	17.9	19.0	17.1	15.8
December	19.5	18.2	18.7	19.0	17.8	19.3	17.2	15.2

Appendix B: State, Alphabetical

Food Hardship in 2015 by State, Alphabetical

State	Food Hardship Rate	Rank
Alabama	20.0	3
Alaska	10.8	48
Arizona	15.9	18
Arkansas	18.0	9
California	15.1	25
Colorado	13.0	40
Connecticut	13.5	39
Delaware	16.0	17
District of Columbia	15.3	24
Florida	16.7	15
Georgia	18.5	7
Hawaii	10.2	50
Idaho	15.9	18
Illinois	14.0	32
Indiana	15.5	22
Iowa	11.0	47
Kansas	14.0	32
Kentucky	19.3	6
Louisiana	21.5	2
Maine	13.8	36
Maryland	12.8	42
Massachusetts	14.3	30
Michigan	15.4	23
Minnesota	10.8	48
Mississippi	23.0	1
Missouri	15.7	20
Montana	11.4	46
Nebraska	11.7	45
Nevada	18.0	9
New Hampshire	14.5	28
New Jersey	14.9	26
New Mexico	17.8	12
New York	15.7	20
North Carolina	17.0	13
North Dakota	8.4	51
Ohio	17.0	13
Oklahoma	19.5	4
Oregon	14.3	30
Pennsylvania	13.9	35
Rhode Island	14.8	27
South Carolina	18.0	9
South Dakota	13.6	38
Tennessee	18.5	7
Texas	16.7	15
Utah	12.9	41
Vermont	14.0	32
Virginia	14.4	29
Washington	13.7	37
West Virginia	19.4	5
Wisconsin	12.0	44
Wyoming	12.2	43

Appendix C: State, by Rank

Food Hardship in 2015 by State, by Rank		
State	Food Hardship Rate	Rank
Mississippi	23.0	1
Louisiana	21.5	2
Alabama	20.0	3
Oklahoma	19.5	4
West Virginia	19.4	5
Kentucky	19.3	6
Georgia	18.5	7
Tennessee	18.5	7
Nevada	18.0	9
South Carolina	18.0	9
Arkansas	18.0	9
New Mexico	17.8	12
North Carolina	17.0	13
Ohio	17.0	13
Florida	16.7	15
Texas	16.7	15
Delaware	16.0	17
Idaho	15.9	18
Arizona	15.9	18
Missouri	15.7	20
New York	15.7	20
Indiana	15.5	22
Michigan	15.4	23
District of Columbia	15.3	24
California	15.1	25
New Jersey	14.9	26
Rhode Island	14.8	27
New Hampshire	14.5	28
Virginia	14.4	29
Oregon	14.3	30
Massachusetts	14.3	30
Vermont	14.0	32
Illinois	14.0	32
Kansas	14.0	32
Pennsylvania	13.9	35
Maine	13.8	36
Washington	13.7	37
South Dakota	13.6	38
Connecticut	13.5	39
Colorado	13.0	40
Utah	12.9	41
Maryland	12.8	42
Wyoming	12.2	43
Wisconsin	12.0	44
Nebraska	11.7	45
Montana	11.4	46
Iowa	11.0	47
Alaska	10.8	48
Minnesota	10.8	48
Hawaii	10.2	50
North Dakota	8.4	51

Appendix D: MSA, Alphabetical

Food Hardship in 2014–2015 by Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), Alphabetical

MSA	Food Hardship Rate	Rank
Akron, OH	16.5	55
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY	11.3	104
Albuquerque, NM	20.1	16
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	14.6	80
Anchorage, AK	14.2	88
Asheville, NC	18.9	28
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	17.8	35
Augusta-Richmond County, GA-SC	22.4	5
Austin-Round Rock, TX	12.4	90
Bakersfield, CA	24.2	1
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD	14.3	85
Baton Rouge, LA	21.3	12
Birmingham-Hoover, AL	19.4	19
Boise City, ID	14.4	84
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	14.0	89
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT	12.2	100
Buffalo-Cheektowaga-Niagara Falls, NY	14.5	83
Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	14.3	85
Charleston-North Charleston, SC	16.5	55
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	19.0	26
Chattanooga, TN-GA	21.1	13
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI	15.3	68
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	17.2	43
Cleveland-Elyria, OH	16.8	48
Colorado Springs, CO	15.5	67
Columbia, SC	22.0	10
Columbus, OH	16.6	53
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	15.8	63
Dayton, OH	21.7	11
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, FL	17.6	37
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO	14.6	80
Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA	12.9	94
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	17.9	34
Durham-Chapel Hill, NC	17.4	40
El Paso, TX	20.2	15
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO	16.8	48
Fresno, CA	22.4	5
Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	12.6	97
Greensboro-High Point, NC	22.2	9
Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin, SC	18.8	29
Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA	15.9	62
Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	15.1	72
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	16.0	60
Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson, IN	17.2	43
Jackson, MS	22.6	3
Jacksonville, FL	16.6	53
Kansas City, MO-KS	16.2	59
Knoxville, TN	19.2	24
Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL	23.2	2
Lancaster, PA	12.6	97
Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV	19.3	22
Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway, AR	19.2	24

MSA	Food Hardship Rate	Rank
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	16.7	50
Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN	19.0	26
Madison, WI	10.2	108
Memphis, TN-MS-AR	22.6	3
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	19.4	19
Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI	15.0	74
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	10.8	105
Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN	17.2	43
New Haven-Milford, CT	18.4	31
New Orleans-Metairie, LA	22.3	7
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	17.1	46
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton, FL	12.8	95
Ogden-Clearfield, UT	15.6	66
Oklahoma City, OK	17.0	47
Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	12.8	95
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	18.7	30
Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura, CA	14.3	85
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL	15.1	72
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent, FL	19.4	19
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	15.7	65
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	15.8	63
Pittsburgh, PA	13.3	92
Portland-South Portland, ME	14.8	77
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	14.7	79
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA	16.7	50
Provo-Orem, UT	10.5	107
Raleigh, NC	13.0	93
Reno, NV	14.9	76
Richmond, VA	17.3	42
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	18.0	33
Rochester, NY	15.2	70
Sacramento-Roseville-Arden-Arcade, CA	14.8	77
Salem, OR	16.4	58
Salt Lake City, UT	15.0	74
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	19.3	22
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA	15.2	70
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA	11.4	103
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	9.8	109
Santa Rosa, CA	11.7	102
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton, PA	17.5	38
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	13.7	91
Spokane-Spokane Valley, WA	14.6	80
Springfield, MA	17.4	40
St. Louis, MO-IL	16.5	55
Stockton-Lodi, CA	16.0	60
Syracuse, NY	13.9	90
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	18.2	32
Toledo, OH	17.7	36
Tucson, AZ	19.6	18
Tulsa, OK	19.9	17
Urban Honolulu, HI	10.6	106
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC	16.7	50
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	12.2	100
Wichita, KS	17.5	38
Winston-Salem, NC	20.6	14
Worcester, MA-CT	15.3	68
Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA	22.3	7

Appendix E: MSA, by Rank

Food Hardship in 2014-2015 by Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), by Rank

MSA	Food Hardship Rate	Rank
Bakersfield, CA	24.2	1
Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL	23.2	2
Memphis, TN-MS-AR	22.6	3
Jackson, MS	22.6	3
Fresno, CA	22.4	5
Augusta-Richmond County, GA-SC	22.4	5
Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA	22.3	7
New Orleans-Metairie, LA	22.3	7
Greensboro-High Point, NC	22.2	9
Columbia, SC	22.0	10
Dayton, OH	21.7	11
Baton Rouge, LA	21.3	12
Chattanooga, TN-GA	21.1	13
Winston-Salem, NC	20.6	14
El Paso, TX	20.2	15
Albuquerque, NM	20.1	16
Tulsa, OK	19.9	17
Tucson, AZ	19.6	18
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	19.4	19
Birmingham-Hoover, AL	19.4	19
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent, FL	19.4	19
Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV	19.3	22
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	19.3	22
Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway, AR	19.2	24
Knoxville, TN	19.2	24
Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN	19.0	26
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	19.0	26
Asheville, NC	18.9	28
Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin, SC	18.8	29
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	18.7	30
New Haven-Milford, CT	18.4	31
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	18.2	32
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	18.0	33
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	17.9	34
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	17.8	35
Toledo, OH	17.7	36
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, FL	17.6	37
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton, PA	17.5	38
Wichita, KS	17.5	38
Durham-Chapel Hill, NC	17.4	40
Springfield, MA	17.4	40
Richmond, VA	17.3	42
Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN	17.2	43
Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson, IN	17.2	43
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	17.2	43
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	17.1	46
Oklahoma City, OK	17.0	47
Cleveland-Elyria, OH	16.8	48
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO	16.8	48
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA	16.7	50
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC	16.7	50
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	16.7	50

MSA	Food Hardship Rate	Rank
Columbus, OH	16.6	53
Jacksonville, FL	16.6	53
Charleston-North Charleston, SC	16.5	55
St. Louis, MO-IL	16.5	55
Akron, OH	16.5	55
Salem, OR	16.4	58
Kansas City, MO-KS	16.2	59
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	16.0	60
Stockton-Lodi, CA	16.0	60
Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA	15.9	62
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	15.8	63
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	15.8	63
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	15.7	65
Ogden-Clearfield, UT	15.6	66
Colorado Springs, CO	15.5	67
Worcester, MA-CT	15.3	68
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI	15.3	68
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA	15.2	70
Rochester, NY	15.2	70
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL	15.1	72
Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	15.1	72
Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI	15.0	74
Salt Lake City, UT	15.0	74
Reno, NV	14.9	76
Sacramento-Roseville-Arden-Arcade, CA	14.8	77
Portland-South Portland, ME	14.8	77
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	14.7	79
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	14.6	80
Spokane-Spokane Valley, WA	14.6	80
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO	14.6	80
Buffalo-Cheektowaga-Niagara Falls, NY	14.5	83
Boise City, ID	14.4	84
Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura, CA	14.3	85
Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	14.3	85
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD	14.3	85
Anchorage, AK	14.2	88
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	14.0	89
Syracuse, NY	13.9	90
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	13.7	91
Pittsburgh, PA	13.3	92
Raleigh, NC	13.0	93
Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA	12.9	94
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton, FL	12.8	95
Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	12.8	95
Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	12.6	97
Lancaster, PA	12.6	97
Austin-Round Rock, TX	12.4	99
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT	12.2	100
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	12.2	100
Santa Rosa, CA	11.7	102
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA	11.4	103
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY	11.3	104
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	10.8	105
Urban Honolulu, HI	10.6	106
Provo-Orem, UT	10.5	107
Madison, WI	10.2	108
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	9.8	109