

## 2025 Massachusetts Statewide Food Access Survey Employment Status Mini Report

Among households with food insecurity, 63% of respondents report being employed (51% report being employed full-time and 13% employed part-time), with 10% reporting they are unemployed, 12% disabled, and 11% retired. Among employed households, 32% of respondents report having two or more jobs.

Removing respondents who report being disabled or retired, 82% (728/885) of respondents in food insecure households report being employed.

Among Food Insecure Households	2024	2023	2022
<b>Employment</b>	<b>(N=1,150)</b>	<b>(N=1,034)</b>	<b>(N=995)</b>
Employed, full-time	582 (50.7%)	462 (44.7%)	496 (49.8%)
Employed, part-time or seasonal	146 (12.7%)	142 (13.7%)	111 (11.1%)
Disabled	143 (12.4%)	143 (13.8%)	130 (13.1%)
Unemployed	113 (9.8%)	125 (12.1%)	99 (9.9%)
Stay at home parent	21 (1.9%)	23 (2.2%)	41 (4.1%)
Student	23 (2.0%)	40 (3.9%)	36 (3.6%)
Retired	122 (10.6%)	99 (9.5%)	83 (8.4%)
<b>How many jobs do you have? (among employed full or part time)</b>	<b>(n=728)</b>	<b>(n=605)</b>	
1 job	493 (67.7%)	435 (72.0%)	420 (69.3%)
2 jobs	202 (27.8%)	152 (25.1%)	167 (27.5%)
3 or more jobs	33 (4.5%)	18 (2.9%)	20 (3.3%)

When comparing employment status between those with and without food insecurity in 2024, we found a significant difference between groups, specifically:

- **Food Insecure households** have **higher** percentages of **disabled (12.4%)** and **unemployed (9.8%)** than food secure households (2.9%, and 3.5%, respectively).
- **Food Insecure households** have **lower** percentages of **retired (10.6%)** than food secure households (29.6%).
- The percentages of employed, stay at home parent, and students are similar in two groups.

Characteristic	Food insecure	Food secure	p-value <sup>2</sup>
	N = 1,150 <sup>1</sup>	N = 1,986 <sup>1</sup>	
employment			<0.001
Employed, full-time	582 (50.7%)	968 (48.8%)	
Employed, part-time	146 (12.7%)	179 (9.0%)	
Disabled	143 (12.4%)	58 (2.9%)	
Unemployed	113 (9.8%)	69 (3.5%)	
Stay at home parent	21 (1.9%)	55 (2.8%)	
Student	23 (2.0%)	67 (3.4%)	
Retired	122 (10.6%)	588 (29.6%)	

### **Pantry Use and Employment Status (adult weights)**

In 2024, 55% of respondents reported being employed full time. Among these, 24% reported using food pantries.

Among Full Time Employed	2024	2023	2022	2021
<b>Food Pantry User in Past Year</b>	<b>(N=1,714)</b>	<b>(N=1,553)</b>	<b>(N=1,603)</b>	<b>(N=1,589)</b>
Yes	410 (23.9%)	328 (21.1%)	340 (21.2%)	264 (16.6%)

Among food pantry users, 58% were employed full time, and 13% were employed part time based on 2024 data.

Among Food Pantry Users	2024	2023	2022	2021
<b>Employment</b>	<b>(N=711)</b>	<b>(N=654)</b>	<b>(N=633)</b>	<b>(N=560)</b>
Employed, full-time	410 (57.7%)	328 (50.2%)	340 (53.8%)	264 (47.2%)
Employed, part-time or seasonal	93 (13.1%)	96 (14.6%)	72 (11.4%)	97 (17.3%)
Disabled	60 (8.4%)	68 (10.4%)	56 (8.9%)	48 (8.5%)
Unemployed	52 (7.3%)	59 (9.0%)	53 (8.4%)	60 (10.7%)
Stay at home parent	18 (2.6%)	14 (2.1%)	24 (3.8%)	14 (2.5%)
Student	15 (2.1%)	35 (5.4%)	36 (5.7%)	33 (6.0%)
Retired	63 (8.8%)	54 (8.2%)	51 (8.0%)	44 (7.9%)