



How current economic conditions are impacting East Texas Food Bank

The East Texas Food Bank is very concerned about the economic downturn, increasing unemployment, rising food prices and the effects these conditions are having on the hundreds of thousands of men, women and children who depend on partner food pantries. Our partner agencies are helping more people than ever and have seen an estimated 22% increase in the last nine months. Some trends that are contributing to this increase demand of food are increasing unemployment, rising costs of food and rent costs. Our 200+ partner agencies report more first-time users, more children, more employed persons and newly unemployed people coming for food assistance. The East Texas Food Bank is not alone; many food banks across the country are reporting an increase in demand. To keep up with the demand, we need your help to feed our neighbors in need.

Here is a snapshot of what East Texas Food Bank is witnessing in our community.

Estimated increase in demand for emergency food assistance over the past year:	14% for emergency food pantries 8% for onsite feeding numbers are YTD through august vs. 07 numbers.
Factors that are contributing to the increase in demand for emergency food:	Increasing Unemployment Rising Cost of Food Mortgage/Rent Costs Inadequacy of Food Stamp Benefits
Trends in usage include:	increased need among existing clients (more repeat visits) more first-time users more children more employed persons newly unemployed persons
Do you feel that you are currently able to adequately meet the needs of your community without having to adjust the amount of food you distribute or your operations?	Yes. At this point, we are able to meet demand, but we are concerned that the increase is going to make it difficult for us to make it product available to our agencies in the near future.